Baron Cervantes' suspected killer names brains

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

Topless lads jailed

MAHIGPIT PALA TALAGA D'YAN!

By Nelson Flores

YOU don't stroll topless on the streets of Marikina City and get away with it—not even if you're a man and it's a sweltering Monday afternoon.

Ronald Wandasan, Ruel Sales and Francisco Natividad,

TOPLESS/A16

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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₱200-B power shocker

Gov't absorbs losses of 12 IPP contracts

By Rocky Nazareno and Norman Bordadora

SENATORS conducting a hearing on the controversial purchased power adjustment charge got a $3.975-billion shock Tuesday night.

The man in charge of privatizing the National Power Corp.'s assets disclosed that the national government had "absorbed" the cost of 12 stranded contracts with independent power producers worth a total of $3.975 billion.

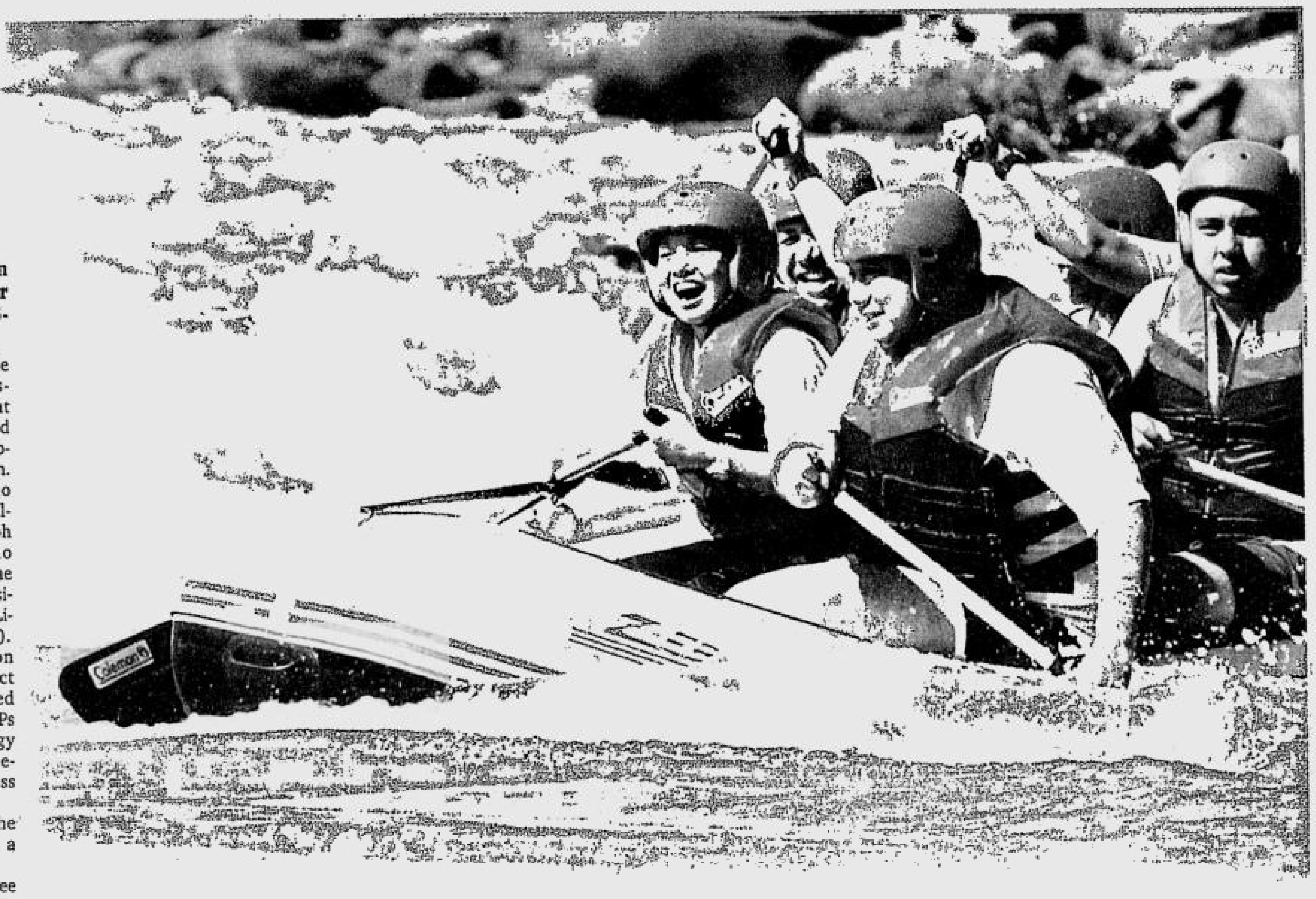
"That's P200 billion!" Sen. Sergio Osmeña blurted out. Osmeña and fellow Senators Renato Cayetano, Ralph Recto, John Osmeña and Edgardo Angara were visibly taken aback by the revelation of Edgardo Del Fonso, president of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM).

Del Fonso said the $3.975 billion represented the "stranded contract costs" because the contracts entered into by the government with the 12 IPPs "were not approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission before the December 2000 deadline" that Congress had set for all IPP contracts.

Stranded contract costs refer to the debts that Napocor will assume as a result of privatization.

Recto, chair of the Senate committee on ways and means, noted that the 12 IPP contracts, which account for 40 percent of the energy capacity of the 35

P200-B/A16



JOY RIDE
In her self-appointed role as the country's No. 1 tourism promoter, President Macapagal with husband Mr. Mike Arroyo, their son Diosdado and Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon (partly hidden) go whitewater rafting on Wednesday in the Mambuaya River in Cagayan de Oro City. VAL HANDUMON

Gloria is the new poster girl of RP tourism

By Carlito Pablo

THE MOTHER of the nation is also the new poster girl of tourism.

Just weeks after scuba diving in the coral-rich Tubbataha Reef in Palawan, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ventured into another sports adventure that could lure tourists to the Philippines: whitewater rafting.

The President was wearing a life vest and a helmet when she climbed into a rubber boat and paddled through the wild rapids of the Mambuaya River in Cagayan de Oro City for a 15-minute thrill ride.

"I had a great time," she said later. "What we're pushing is ecotourism because of our (country's) natural wonders."

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, their son Diosdado and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon accompanied the President in her latest jaunt as the Philippines' No. 1 promoter of tourism.

Next on her list of outdoor activities are mountain climbing and surfing.

Ms Macapagal said she would scale Mt. Pulag next month "because June is the month of the mountain and this is the year of the mountain."

At 9,612 feet, Mt. Pulag in Mountain Province is the highest peak in Luzon and the second highest in the country after Mt. Apo in Mindanao.

In September, the First Couple will go surfing in Siargao, Surigao.

Siargao is the acknowledged "surfing capital of Asia, and they have a surfing competition every September," said the President, who noted that the sensation one got from whitewater rafting was "similar to surfing."

GLORIA/A17

'Kuryente': Serge O got it all wrong

By Christine Avendaño and Ronnel W. Domingo

ALL wrong.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III's exposé on another allegedly overpriced National Power Corp. contract completely missed the mark, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said yesterday.

The contract for the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) was awarded to Alstom Philippines, not Asea Brown Boveri as Osmeña alleged. And the winning bid was $4.5 million (about P250 million), not $135 million (P6.75 billion).

"Maybe, whoever gave him the information only had half of the story," Perez told reporters before the resumption of a House energy committee hearing.

In other words, Osmeña was the victim, in the apt parlance of Filipino journalists, of a "kuryente," or false report.

In a statement issued yesterday,

KURYENTE/A16

MARCOS' MILLIONS

Judge's career move raised eyebrows

By Donna S. Cueto

(Fifth of a series)

IT could just be a coincidence, or it could be something else.

A Swiss judge in charge of investigating new Marcos deposits opted for very early retirement in 1998 and joined KPMG Switzerland, a group linked to the transfer of $400 million in Marcos money in 1986 hours before a freeze order issued by a Swiss federal court went into effect.

Peter Cosandey was the Zurich investigating magistrate and district attorney from 1986 to 1998, during which no new discoveries of hidden Marcos funds were made.

Only the $356 million in Swiss deposits identified in March 1986 as part of the Marcos loot was frozen. The money, deposited by the Philippine National Bank in an escrow account abroad, has grown to $660 million. But not a single cent of this fund has reached Philippine soil.

The career move of Cosandey "raised eyebrows" in Switzerland as he was only in his early 40s when he retired as a Zurich magistrate, according to sources. The retirement age for public officials in Switzerland is 65, and early retirement is set at 60.

Sources described Cosandey's retirement then as "abrupt" and "unique" not only because of his age, but also because it came about after he had worked out an escrow agreement on the then $590 million frozen Swiss Marcos assets.

In January 1999, when Cosandey left

JUDGE'S/A16

Who will be GMA running mate in 2004?

By Carlito Pablo

WHEN President Macapagal-Arroyo announced yesterday that she was assuming the chairmanship of the ruling Lakas-NUCD party, she also practically announced her candidacy for the presidential election in 2004.

That's the sensing of party leaders.

"As far as I am concerned, the only remaining issue is who will be her running mate and her senatorial candidates," Lakas national executive director Jose Ma. Rufino told the INQUIRER.

From being the party's titular head, Ms Macapagal said she has agreed to be on top of the country's dominant party at the request of Lakas members themselves.

Speaker Jose de Venecia was the Lakas chair.

"I'm being asked by Lakas members to chair the party," Ms Macapagal said. "Even (Speaker Jose) Joe de Venecia would like to cede his position to me."

"I will be accepting the offer of Joe de Venecia to be the chair of Lakas," the President said in a nationwide hookup interview with Bombo Radyo.

The Speaker's office yesterday confirmed that he has been asking Ms Macapagal to assume the top Lakas post.

WHO/A17

Former Erap guard names brains in Baron's murder

By TJ Burgonio

A FORMER bodyguard of deposed President Joseph Estrada has named the mastermind behind the fatal shooting of Baron Cervantes, government informant and self-styled spokesperson of the Young Officers' Union (YOU), police said.

"The mastermind is already known, but we can't disclose his name pending his arrest. Maybe tomorrow," Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, said yesterday at a press conference where he announced the arrest of the alleged gunman.

Ex-Marine Sgt. Joseph Mostrales, 37, was arrested Saturday by agents of the National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-KFR Task Force (Naktaf) in Umingan, Pangasinan.

"This is a big break in our campaign against criminality," Mendoza said.

Mostrales, who was discharged from the Marines in March for going absent without leave, had served as a close-in security aide of Estrada while still detailed with the Presidential Security Group in 2000, Mendoza said.

He is a member of the Guardians

FORMER/A16

EX-MARINE Sgt. Joseph Mostrales: Suspected gunman. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Fr. Reuter: Sex scandals to make Church stronger

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SEX scandals involving Filipino priests may cause some Catholics to "distance" themselves from the Church, but this will eventually make the Church stronger, Fr. James Reuter said yesterday.

Reuter, who heads the communication bureau of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, told reporters that the Church would eventually "get over this (crisis)" because Filipinos know that their priests are not as bad as some of them have been portrayed.

FR. REUTER/A16

Second FRONT PAGE

MASKI AKO... AYOKONG MATAWAG NA SIOPAO! GT

Erap scolds Sandigan anew

By Michael Lim Ubac and Volt Contreras

CRYING "persecution," deposed President Joseph Estrada yesterday lashed out at the Sandiganbayan and a television station in the first hearing into contempt charges brought against him by a civil watchdog group.

Estrada was livid at having been summoned to the Sandiganbayan to answer contempt charges filed by PlunderWatch, a civil group closely following the Estrada trials before the anti-graft court, the Agence France Presse reported.

"By entertaining this frivolous complaint at the expense of more urgent issues, the Sandiganbayan is in effect tolerating the systematic persecution of my family and myself," Estrada said in a statement read in court by one of his lawyers.

PlunderWatch had asked the Sandiganbayan to cite the ousted President for contempt for his alleged display of disrespect toward the court.

They cited Estrada's repeated statements that he did not expect to get a fair trial at the Sandiganbayan, which is hearing the plunder, perjury, graft and other cases against him.

Estrada said even his wife, Sen. Luisa Ejercito, suffered the "indignity of being served a subpoena commanding her to attend the scheduled hearings in this court."

Senator Ejercito snubbed the court summons, asserting that the judiciary and the legislature were co-equal branches of government and invoking parliamentary immunity.

The senator was dragged into the fray after she gave a privileged speech in the Senate criticizing the conduct of her husband's trial.

Estrada later read a second statement outside the courtroom accusing television network ABS-CBN of putting words into his mouth.

He denied having acknowledged ownership of the controversial Jose Velarde bank account, contrary to what appeared in an interview with the station's Pia Hontiveros.

The interview with Hontiveros was the second in which Estrada admitted owning the Velarde account, which at one point contained billions of pesos.

"Let me categorically state that I am not Jose Velarde and I do not own the controversial bank account," Estrada said yesterday, pointing instead to his friend, businessman Jaime Dichaves, as the owner of the account.

Estrada's "admissions" to Hontiveros had resulted in his firing en masse his original team of high-priced and prominent lawyers like Andres Narvasa, Jose Flaminiano and Rene Saguisag, after it appeared he realized his statements were going to cost him his cases.

On Tuesday, the public lawyers appointed by the Sandiganbayan to defend Estrada after the departure of his first defense team, asked the court to let them resign from the cases. *With an AFP report*

Erap's bank agent named

ORTALIZA

WHO is Baby Ortaliza and what was her relationship to former President Joseph Estrada?

According to one prosecution witness in the plunder case against Estrada, Ortaliza "represented" both the deposed President and "Jose Velarde" in transactions with her bank branch located in San Juan, Metro Manila.

Teresa Barcelona, former manager of Equitable-PCIBank's Greenhills branch, said Ortaliza made 12 interbranch deposits to the Velarde account, which was maintained at Equitable's Binondo branch, between October 1999 and July 2000.

In most of those transactions, Barcelona said she personally attended to Ortaliza after the latter presented "pay to cash" checks for deposit to the Velarde account.

"As far as I know she represented Jose Velarde. She would give me a call telling me to wait for her for she might be late," Barcelona told the court.

In the ex-President's perjury trial, which is also being heard by the Sandiganbayan Special Division created especially to try the Estrada cases, Ma. Pamela Moran of Security Bank Corp. said Ortaliza was the "one person" who transacted for the three investment savings accounts maintained by Estrada at SBC's San Juan branch.

The SBC accounts were allegedly among the "cash on hand" assets not declared by then President Estrada in his Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth for 1998, which became the basis for the perjury charge against him.

Moran said she personally dealt with Ortaliza "five to six times" when she was new accounts officer at SBC's San Juan branch from April 2000 to September 2001.

Moran said she last saw Ortaliza on Nov. 13, 2001 when the latter presented the "passbook of Joseph Estrada for updating." Estrada was ousted from office in January 2001.

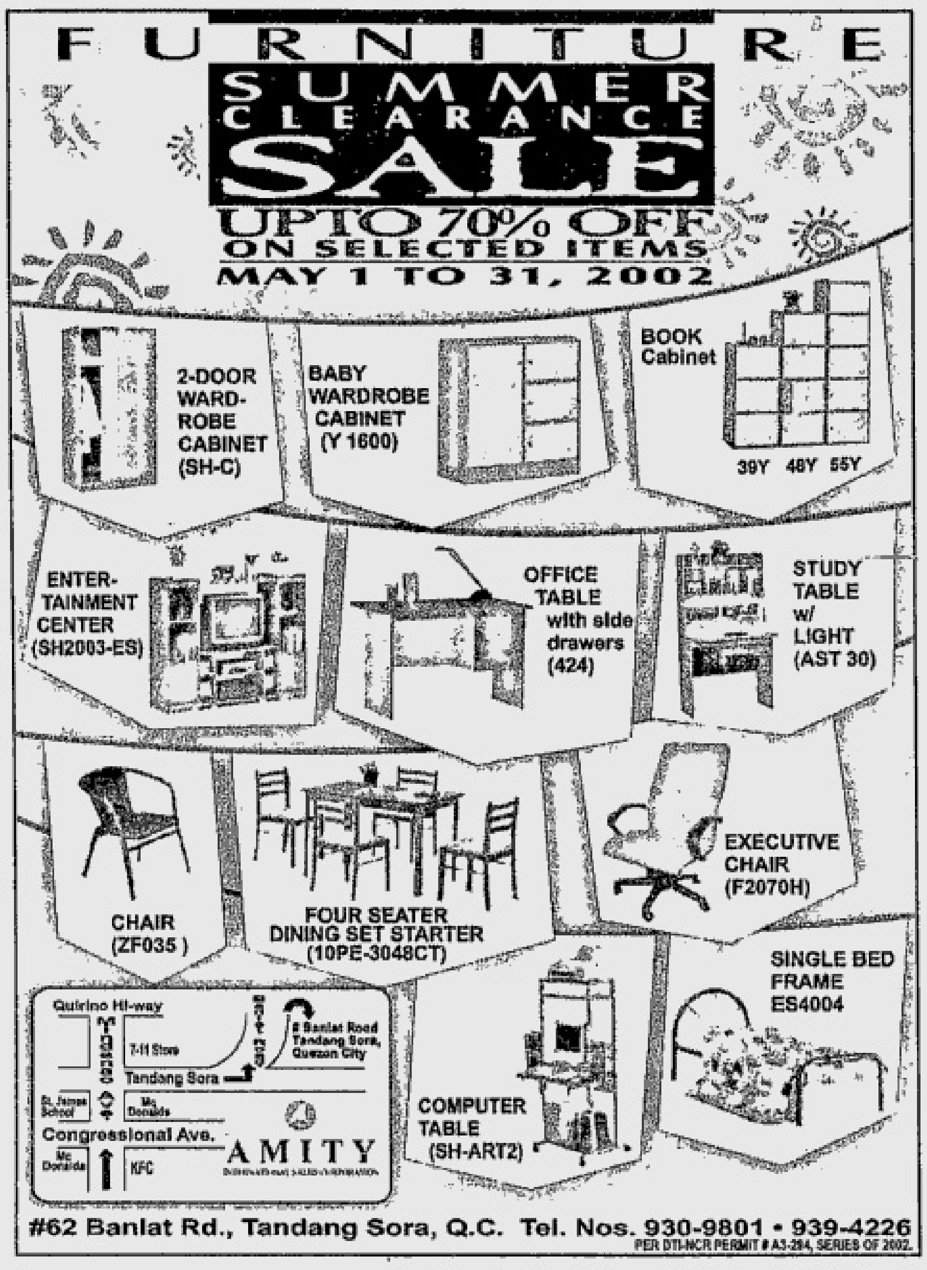
"She was always in a hurry," Moran said of Ortaliza, during direct examination by state prosecutor Alex Padilla.

Both witnesses identified Ortaliza in a photograph shown to them by prosecutors. But both admitted they dealt with Ortaliza without ever asking her to show any identification.

"She introduced herself as Baby Ortaliza," Barcelona said.

After the hearing, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said Ortaliza's given name was "Leonor."

At Monday's hearing, Barcelona presented 12 deposit receipts showing that some P867 million had been deposited in the Velarde account in a span of nine months, from Oct. 22, 1999 to July 25, 2000. *Volt Contreras*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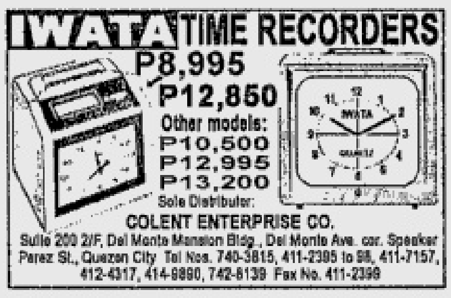
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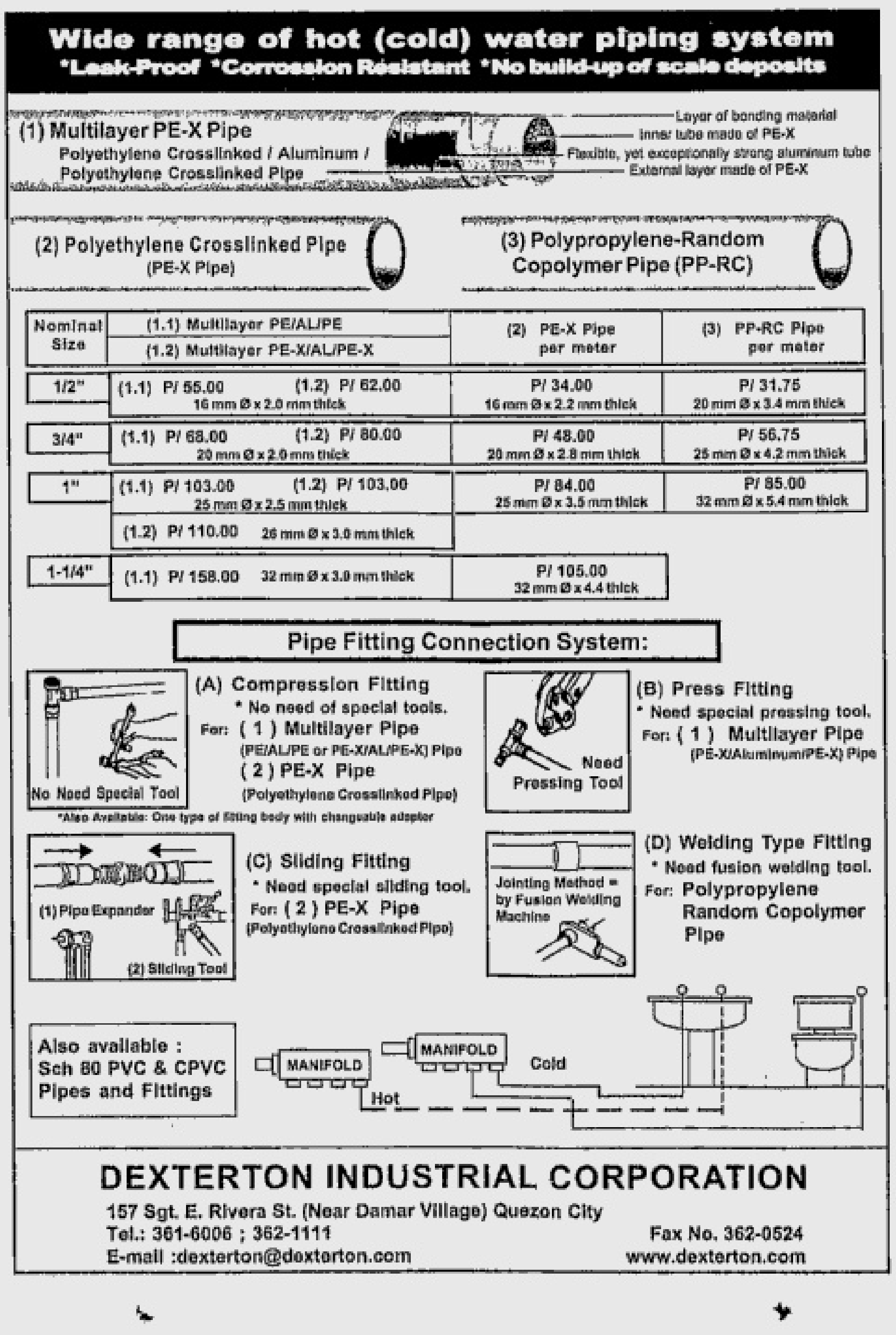
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House to probe pact with MILF

THE HOUSE defense committee will investigate charges that the recently signed peace pact between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front was a sellout of Mindanao.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., committee chair, said the government peace panelists and defense officials will be summoned to an inquiry next week to explain provisions of the agreement signed recently in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

Pichay consented to a resumption of the committee hearing following demands by Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat and Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol.

Lobregat said the pact would dismember the Republic, as it gave the MILF a belligerent status.

Diverted funds

Piñol believed it would strengthen the rebel group. He said the government was now duty-bound to allow the MILF to receive and disburse government funds "for rehabilitation and development of conflict-affected areas in Mindanao."

But even in the past, the governor said, money given to Muslim rebels was spent not on intended projects, but to fortify Camp Abubakar, the MILF's main headquarters until 2001, when an all-out war launched by the government decimated their forces.

In short, Piñol said, "Government funds were used against the military. Should we let that happen again?"

Lobregat added that the Malaysia pact further granted the MILF "evacuees safe return to their place of origin," meaning, camps seized by the military.

Lobregat said the peace agreement was shrouded in mystery, because government chief negotiator Jesus Dureza was in Mindanao when it was signed in Malaysia.

MILF camps

Both Lobregat and Piñol also want Congress to probe a joint communique signed between the government and rebel forces on May 6, or before the Malaysia meet.

Pinol said, "Government has been saying there are no more MILF camps, but with the creation of the joint action group, the government virtually recognized the existence of MILF camps," he said. The communique gave the MILF authority to defend its forces, facilities, installations, equipment and lines of communication, and its civilian constituents, Piñol said.

And with yet another clause, Piñol said, the government apparently surrendered efforts to track down lawless elements to the rebels. The provision states: "(the MILF) shall block the entry of criminals into MILF areas/communities."

He wanted to know why the AFP and the PNP should "convey to the MILF an order of battle containing the names of criminal elements," effectively enlisting the rebels help in fighting crime in the area. ***Juliet L. Javellana with Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

I hate war —Misuari

STA. ROSA, Laguna—"I hate war, I do not like bloodshed."

Thus detained Muslim leader Nur Misuari declared yesterday he was innocent of rebellion charges, and vowed that Muslims in the southern Philippines would one day have their own homeland.

The 65-year-old former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao spoke to reporters after a court hearing where he was to be formally charged with rebellion.

Misuari, now chief of the Moro National Liberation Front, and seven followers are being charged in connection with an uprising by hundreds of MNLF fighters last November. Nearly 200 people were killed in the failed revolt.

The judge postponed yesterday's hearing to May 30 pending a defense petition for the case to be dropped.

Misuari said he would take his case to an international court if he did not get justice in the Philippines.

Asked if taking up arms remained an option, Misuari said, "I will defend my people's right to survive by any means available to them in accordance with international law. Whether the government likes it or not, Mindanao will be free."

Regional Trial Court Judge Norberto Geraldez ordered Misuari returned to Fort Santo Domingo. ***Reuters***

2 Pinoys held for slay in high seas

TOKYO—Authorities detained two Filipino murder suspects from a Panamanian-registered tanker anchored in western Japan after they had been confined aboard the ship for more than one month.

The move comes at the request of Panama, which has jurisdiction under international law because the crime allegedly occurred in international waters, a Justice Ministry spokesman said on condition of anonymity.

Japanese television showed the suspects, identified as Almercito Racela, 36, and Nolieto Pabiona, 41, being escorted off the ship by Japan Coast Guard officials. They were handcuffed and wearing orange-colored life vests.

Official confirms talks for Burnhams' release

By Martin P. Marfil

A MILITARY official yesterday confirmed that there were attempts to negotiate for the release of American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham.

The official said that there was also an attempt to utilize the military as a conduit so that the New Tribes Mission, the Burnhams congregation, could establish a link with the Abu Sayyaf.

"When you are with government, you should be extra careful in negotiations… Even if you just talk (to them), it would blow up in our faces," the official said.

It was not clear if paying ransom was included in the group's options.

The proposal for the military to broker the talks, he added, was promptly rejected.

The idea was broached about four months ago by a member of the New Tribes Mission.

The revelation came amid reports that a government representative was trying to negotiate for the release of the Burnhams, who are being held with Filipino Ediborah Yap.

The three were kidnapped on May 27 last year off Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

Yesterday, the official said he could not ascertain if a government representative was indeed trying to negotiate for the release of the Burnhams.

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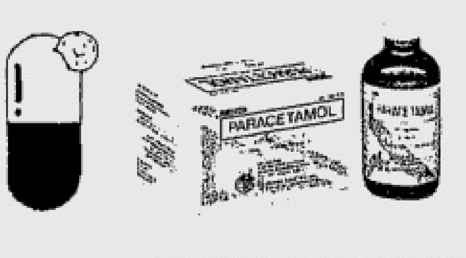
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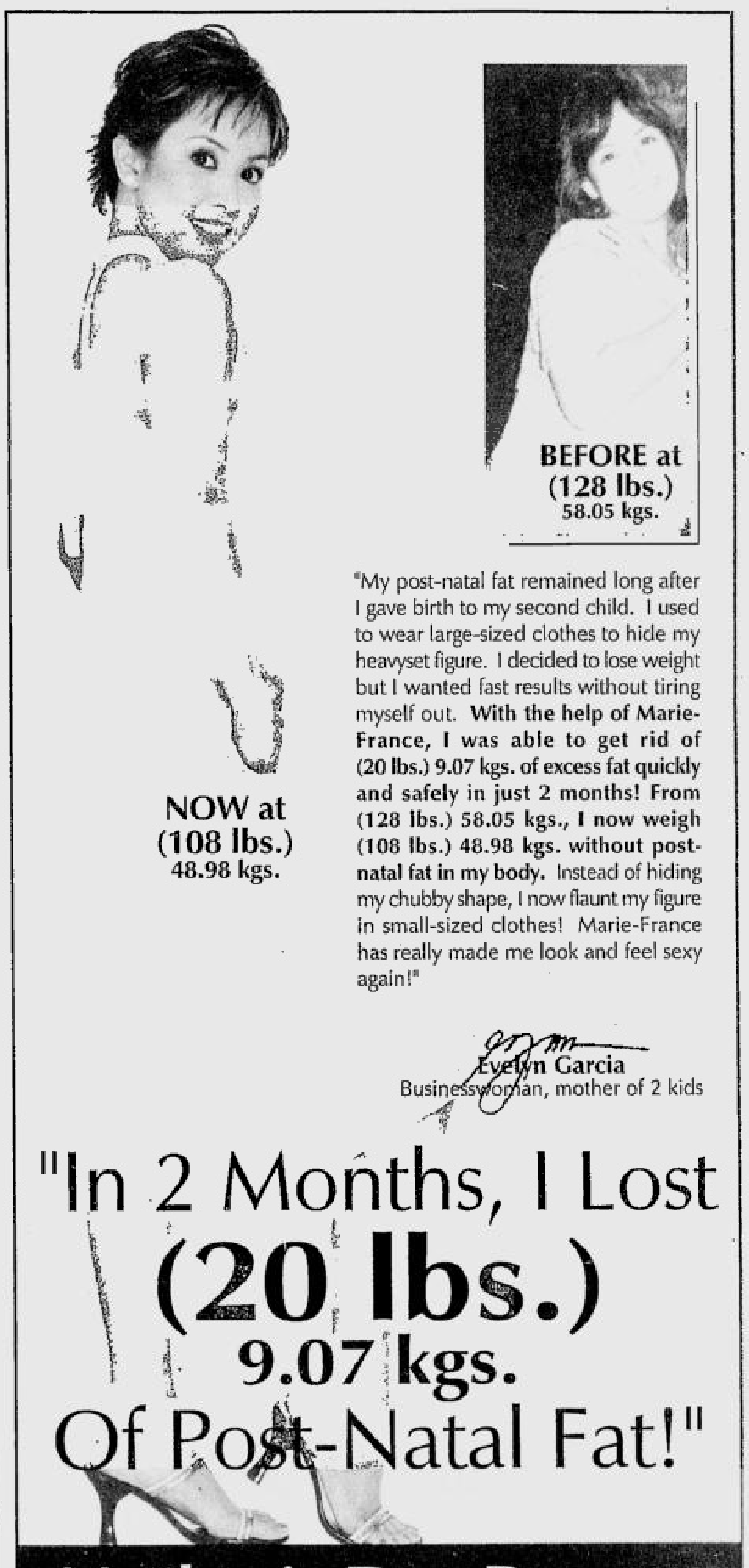
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RP won't ratify int'l treaty vs terror

By Clarissa Batino

THE PHILIPPINES is not inclined to ratify the international convention on terrorism, one of the global initiatives against money laundering, because of conflict with a law protecting secrecy of deposits.

A ranking finance official said that for the convention to be binding here, it must first be ratified by the Senate. But the Department of Finance has objected to a provision that calls for the waiving of bank secrecy in order to track down terrorist financing—recently classified as an area of money laundering.

The 20-year-old law on bank secrecy can be lifted only with a court order. The Anti-Money Laundering Law allows the government to freeze a suspicious account, but a court order is needed before a bank can reveal details of that account.

Still, the finance source said, the objection that the country might lodge against some items in the convention should not affect the Philippines' bid to be taken out of the watchlist of economies believed uncooperative in the global fight against dirty money.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the country took the fight against money laundering a step further yesterday, with the gathering of all agencies involved in the implementation of the Anti—Money Laundering Act of 2001.

Aside from the Anti-Money Laundering Council that Buenaventura heads, present in yesterday's meeting were the Department of Justice, the National Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, and the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime.

Buenaventura said government representatives would meet with representatives of the Financial Action Task Force in early June to discuss progress in the joint efforts.

The BSP chief pointed out that the P4-million threshold provision in the law, one of the concerns raised by the FATF as a limiting factor in efficiently implementing the drive, had not stopped the Anti-Money Laundering Council from freezing suspicious accounts.

The council earlier froze eight accounts related to Price Richardson, a company believed to be selling unregistered securities. "Some of those accounts were below P4 million," Buenaventura said, adding that the decision of the Court of Appeals last week to extend the freezing of the eight accounts was a clear victory for the council.

To more effectively implement the law and earn the trust of the international community, the council should transform itself into a stronger financial intelligence unit.

A source said the council had been pressing the Japanese government for more information about self-styled cult leader Genta Ogami, who has a pending case of securities fraud in the country.

But the source said the Japanese authorities, had repeatedly turned down the Philippines' request because the country is not a member of the Egmont Group, a loose group of financial intelligence unit.

The implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act 9160 or the Anti-Money Laundering Act was signed on March 13.

Raise sunken ferry, solons ask Marina

CONGRESSMEN yesterday asked the Maritime Industry Authority to raise from the bottom of the sea the ill-fated MV Maria Carmela, which caught fire and sank on April 10 off Lucena City, killing at least 42 people. Scores still missing.

Rep. Jacinto Paras, House transportation committee chair, and Leyte Rep. Ted Failon said the recovery of the vessel is vital to an investigation of the fire and the sinking to enable the owners to claim a P40 million insurance.

Paras said there were indications that the ship, hours after it caught fire and abandoned by most of the passengers, was deliberately sunk because the Philippine Coast Guard allowed personnel of the Montenegro Shipping Lines (MSL) to board the ship before the Soco (scene of crime office) team from the Philippine National Police could retrieve evidence.

Police S/Insp. Rufina Baldovino, chief of the Quezon provincial crime laboratory, testified in yesterday's hearing that she was already three steps on board the ship when Lito Suelto, operations officer of MSL, asked her to leave because the ship was about to sink.

Baldovino said the ship indeed sank 30 minutes after she was warned by Suelto.

Paras said witnesses said that MSL personnel were seen boarding and doing things on the ship, which could have led to its sinking.

Owwa chief faces fund probe

LABOR Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas is preparing charges against Overseas Workers Welfare Administration chief Wilhelm Soriano for alleged misuse of funds intended for OFWs.

Sto. Tomas said she was only waiting for the results of the investigation being conducted by an administrative committee headed by Labor Undersecretary Arturo Brion.

She said the investigation, "which will be finished very soon," would be submitted to the Office of the Ombudsman and the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

Senators seek review of tuition hikes

By Cynthia D. Balana

AT LEAST three senators yesterday urged the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education to review the tuition increases in over 1,000 private schools nationwide.

Sen. Renato Cayetano, chair of the Senate committee on education, arts and culture, said that as of April 15 this year, there were already 981 colleges and universities that have increased their tuition.

Cayetano said that the government had reserved regulatory powers to review and disapprove tuition increases under certain circumstances.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said CHEd should fully discharge its authority to look into school fee increases and to disallow those that were clearly illegal and onerous.

Pimentel said there have been complaints from students and parents about unreasonable increases in tuition and other fees that violated the letter and spirit of the law that deregulates fees in both private and public schools.

He said he was disturbed by reports that one college in Metro Manila has not only raised tuition but has also imposed a so-called infrastructure fee.

In some schools, Pimentel said, students were also required to pay a separate fee for air-conditioning.

He said these extra fees were patently illegal because the existing law provides that any increase in tuition should take care of improvement in school facilities.

He said some computer schools in Metro Manila had raised their tuition by 47 percent despite the ongoing economic hardships.

"It is the duty of the CHEd not only to stop the excessive and illegal tuition fees but (also) to prosecute school officials who flagrantly violate the law in their greed for huge profits," Pimentel said.

Due to the soaring school fees, the CHEd reported that survival rate in college stands at 42.5 percent; which means that nearly half of freshmen students never get to finish their courses.

"Unless the malpractice is effectively stopped, I am afraid more and more poor families will not be able to send their children to school. This is an unhealthy situation," he said.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan urged CHEd officials to conduct visits and look into the books of higher education institutions and determine whether the series of tuition increases over the past years have redounded to the interests of students and school workers.

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Hired gun tagged in journalist's slay

PAGADIAN CITY—Police here said they have identified the killer of journalist Edgar Damalerio.

Supt. Asuri Hawani, city police director, said they already filed a murder case against the suspect, whom he identified as Ronie Quilme, before the city prosecutor's office.

Hawani said a witness positively identified Quilme, a gun-for-hire who was also involved in a series of robbery and car theft here, as the gunman.

Aside from killing Damalerio, Hawani said Quilme was also linked to the death of SPO1 Eduardo Tomaroy and San Miguel town agrarian reform officer George Bulan several months ago.

He said Quilme is now being hunted.

But the National Bureau of Investigation, which is conducting its own investigation of Damalerio's death, expressed doubts on the veracity of the police's information about the identity of Damalerio's killer.

"It's difficult to comprehend how (the witness) was able to identify Quilme when he was more than 100 meters away from the scene of the crime," said Friolo Icao, NBI district chief, said. ***Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Accounting of coco levy dividends sought

By C. Balana

THE SENATE blue ribbon committee will look deeper into the dividends from the P100-billion coconut levy funds, which have remained unaccounted for to the detriment of small farmers.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the Senate committee on blue ribbon and public accountability, said that while the funds were intact, the earnings from those funds appeared to be not.

He said that during the last committee hearing the other day on the funds, Sen. Juan Flavier raised the issue of the dividends but none of those invited to the hearing was able to provide the answer.

"We have to find that out, meaning, the incomes earned, to who did they go? We don't know anything about it so we have to find that out," Arroyo told reporters.

Arroyo said that the committee has not yet been able to identify the small farmers as the real owners of the funds for which these were established.

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High-risk job

EDITORIAL

AS EDITORS and publishers of community newspapers were meeting in Manila early this week, they received the shocking news that another of their members was gunned down on Monday night in Pagadian City.

The victim was Edgar Damalerio, managing editor of the weekly newspaper Zamboanga Scribe and commentator of radio station RPN9-dxKP. He was the 38th journalist killed in the Philippines in the past 15 years, a casualty rate that makes us a high-risk country for journalists.

The Philippine Press Institute, the ever-vigilant guardian of press freedom in the country, was quick to condemn the killing and to point out that none of the previous killings had been solved. According to reports, Damalerio was shot by two unidentified people, ironically on a spot just about 300 meters from the city's police headquarters.

The assassins struck after Damalerio had waged a campaign in his newspaper column and radio program against corruption by city and police officials whom he attacked for failure to curb illegal drug trafficking, killings and car thefts in the city and Zamboanga del Sur. Whether or not his attacks were backed by evidence, in a provincial setting, offended officials tend to settle scores not by taking legal action against journalists but by killing them.

The fact that most of the journalists who were killed during the past 15 years were in the community press reflects the power of provincial political warlords and the weakness of the local press relative to the outspoken metropolitan media, which are often the model for aggressive media campaigns in the provinces.

That community journalists continue to denounce and expose venalities in local governments with great risk to their lives is a tribute to their zeal for their vocation. They therefore need the help of police authorities to determine responsibility for the slaying of media people, given that provincial politicians have close association with the police.

Damalerio's assassination came closely on the heels of the celebration in Manila of World Press Freedom Day to uphold the importance of press freedom and at the same time honor journalists who dedicated their lives in the pursuit of news and information. The theme of the conference was "Terrorism and Media," and the PPI-sponsored conference of community journalists echoed the theme of terrorism.

In the World Press Freedom Day conference, it was reported that during the past two years, more than 50 journalists had been killed while covering violent conflicts. Such deaths were not the result of war's accident but the outcome "of deliberate targeting of journalists by those seeking to prevent media exposure of their criminal, corrupt or terrorist activities," it was pointed out at the conference. Casualties of violence on Filipino journalists are more a result of terrorism by those seeking to cover up venalities than they are of being caught in the crossfire of combatants in war.

The principle which drives journalists, whether community-based or Manila-based, to unearth venalities is that only by disclosure by an independent press can it promote good governance. There is no dispute over this principle, but in practice, journalists have to pay a high price—including their lives—in pursuing press investigation projects. There are no quick fixes to avoid these risks, and journalists stay in their jobs because they have a job to do or they stay out of it because it's too hot for them.

Given these choices, we should be expecting media people being gunned down either by political terrorists or by combatants in wars who cannot stand the sight of nosey reporters telling their governments about how the war is going on. There have been suggestions, intended to minimize risks in war front coverage, that journalists refrain from wearing clothes that resemble uniforms. From actual experience, this precaution has not ensured the safety of journalists. For journalists engaged in the campaign against corrupt officials, it is even more unsafe to be wearing safari jackets (their identification ensemble). With this ensemble, they can be picked out easily by assassins.

OPINION

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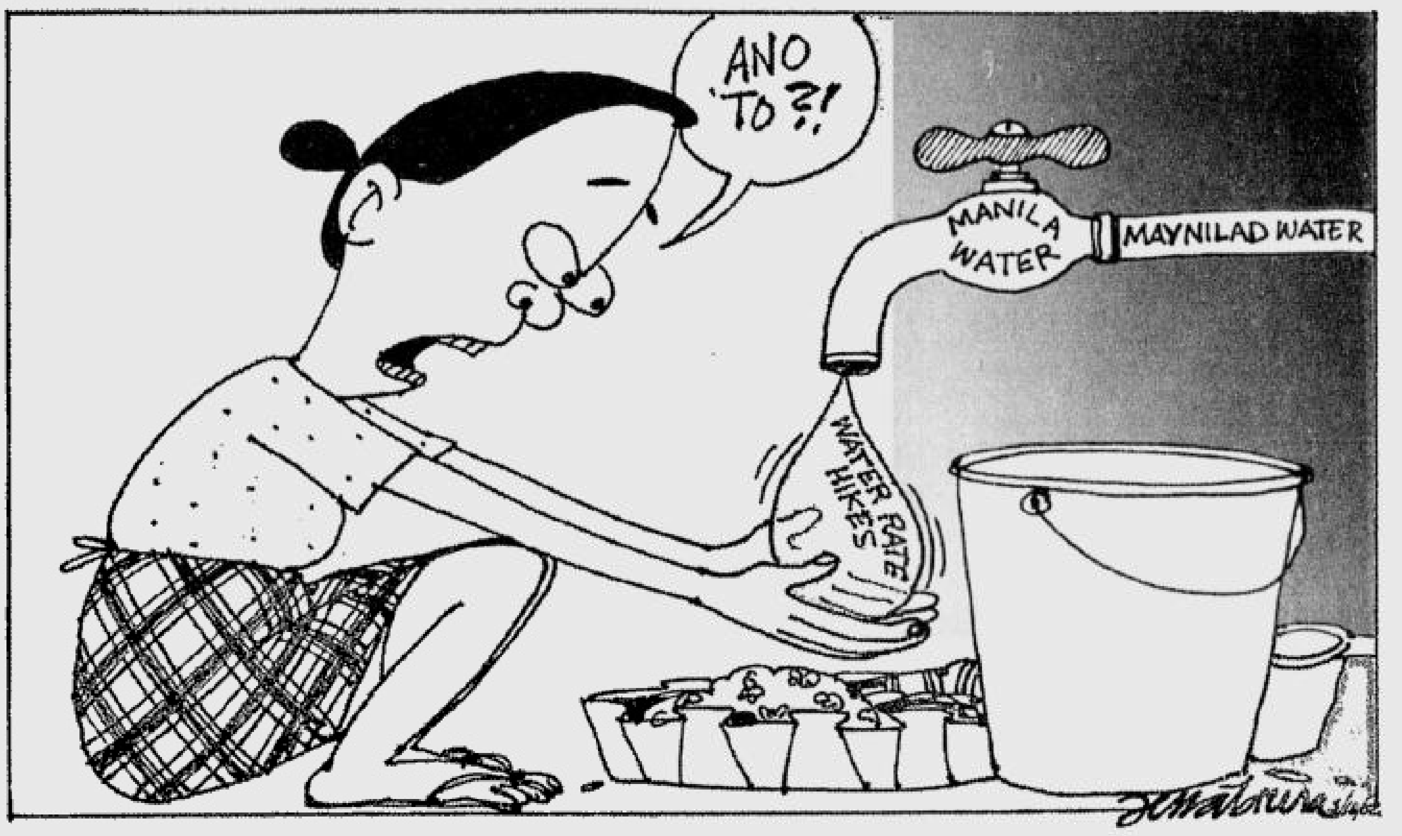

Philets group giving away gold bars for free

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE is something paradoxical in the present power situation. We have an oversupply of electricity. We are already paying for all the power generated by the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and the National Power Corp. (Napocor) whether the electricity is used or not—in fact, even when no electricity is generated at all. And yet most of Metro Manila's streets are so dark that it is dangerous to walk on them at night. One is liable to get mugged, murdered or raped. Criminals lurk in the dark. Even the undersides of the elevated rail lines, which should be brightly lighted, are dark. Some of the tunnels are lighted, but so inadequately that they are still dark even during the day.

The reason is that the electricity being consumed by the streetlights are being paid by the local government units (LGUs)—and by the homeowners' associations in the private subdivisions. So the LGUs are purposely limiting the streetlights—or not increasing them—in order to economize.

But since we are paying for the unused and ungenerated electricity anyway, why not use all of it to brighten up the metropolis and make it safe? Bright lights scare away the petty criminals. And bright lights give any place a happy atmosphere. That is why carnivals, fairs, theme parks and amusement places are always brightly lighted. Anyone who has seen Las Vegas at night will know what I mean. But right now, the Philippines, including its capital, is so dark it looks gloomy, scary and really very poor—although it has an excess supply of electricity.

Sen. Manuel Villar suggested giving this excess to the consumers for free. I suggest giving it to the LGUs for the streetlights, if not for free, at least at subsidized rates. All the electrical capacity in the Philippines are subsidized by the taxpayers anyway. And subsidizing the LGUs will be subsidizing the government. It is like transferring the money from one pocket to another—but not only to the pockets of the owners of the IPPs.

If the government cannot make its premier metropolis clean and orderly, it can at least make it bright. Perhaps, its residents will not mind so much paying the PPA if their city is at least bright. It will also perk up the economy, as the people will still be out and shopping and spending even late at night without fear of being held up. Tourists also like—and feel safe in—places that are brightly lighted. Which is one more reason why Las Vegas, which shines like a jewel in the middle of the desert, attracts tourists like a magnet.

And why not revert to the old method of charging electric consumption: the more you consume the lower the rate. It used to be that way but it was changed to the opposite: the more you consume the higher the rate. That was to encourage economizing in the consumption of electricity during the Oil Shock. But now we have to encourage consumption because we have too much electricity, so let's go back to the old practice.

* * *

Believe it or not, the Philets Foundation will give one gold bar to each of the Golden Jubilarians who will attend its grand reunion on the evening of May 25 at the Quezon City Sports Club on E. Rodriguez Avenue. It turns out Marcos did not find the Yamashita Treasure. One Philet Goldfinger did, and he is giving it away to his fellow alumni.

Honorees in the reunion are the alumni of Philets Class 1952. A special award is being given to Exequiel "Lito" Molina, a member of the famous Oslans and a respected business journalist, for his outstanding contributions to Philippine music, he being a popular and accomplished jazz musician. Alumni of Artlets (College of Arts and Letters which replaced the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters of the University of Sto. Tomas) are invited to join the foundation and attend the May 25 affair.

Because there are so many gold bars to be given away (the Philets treasury looks like a veritable Fort Knox), the foundation is looking for the following Golden Jubilarians so they can go to the reunion and get their gold:

(Philosophy) Homer de Leon, Romeo San Juan, Amelia Alabastro, Proserpina Amante, Pacita Araneta, Ramona Felizmena, Doris Flor, Amelia Marcelino, Marian Maslog, Ma. Norma Mendoza, Esperanza Ramirez, Trinidad Remerata, Rosalinda Tan Kiang, Victoresita Torres, Luz Villanueva and Ma. Luisa Zumel.

(Journalism) Rogelio Buhay, Vicente de la Calzada, Servando Camello, William Chen, Felipe Delfin, Luis Esteban, Antonio Jonson, Pablo Lincumpao, Mario Maontesclaros, Eloy Pineda, Severino Ruivivar, Rafael Serra, Benjamin Singson, Dante Verayo, Adelia Atienza, Margarita Cabrera, Juanita Calleja, Purita Fernandez, Felicisima Garcia, Rita Gerona, Walerica Jurado, Ana Maria de Luzuriaga, Cynthia Marcelino, Teresita Ojeda, Lilia Ortega, Olga Pamintuan, Carlita Postrero, Soledad Rosario, Esperanza Terencio, Paz Villamil and the Oslans: Juan T. Gatbonton, Arnold Moss, Ramon J. Lopez and Thelma Silvestre, student council president.

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Letting off steam

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Conrado de Quiros

SO far, the most oppressive heat I've experienced was the one in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was the middle of the year when I visited there some years ago.

The airport itself was warm despite the air-conditioning. I could see several people fanning themselves while waiting in line at immigration. I myself did not feel the need to do so, coming from a part of the world that was not called the tropics for nothing. But emerging from the airport offered a new experience altogether.

It was an hour or so past noon when I did, and I swear the heat slammed into me. It was not a gaseous suffusion, the kind that surrounds you and seeps into your body like gin. It was a solid wall of heat. It was overpowering, and for a few seconds I felt dizzy and short of breath. This was so in particular because when I was a kid, I had asthma, and the doctor pinned my allergy down to sudden changes in temperature. The temperature plunged or soared, and I would be in for nights (and days) of wheezing and gasping for breath. I outgrew my asthma while in elementary school, but I remain prone to shortness of breath when assailed by sudden heat or cold.

Over the next several days, I managed to adjust to the temperature. Despite the huge overhead fans in many places, the heat remained palpable, but it was a presence that could now be tolerated like a bore at a party where you are the host. But I did not venture into the open sun. Nor did anybody else, the locals included. I would learn later that the reason many of them wore long sleeves or robes despite the heat was precisely to avoid getting burned while walking in the sun, which was not always a matter of choice.

I thanked God we had a benign climate. One that wasn't too cold it allowed beggars to sleep on the pavement—elsewhere, they would be picked up in the morning like litter after having died where they slept. Or too hot you could melt in it like butter. I finally understood how it could be possible to have the "sleeping sickness." It didn't take the tsetse fly to do it, some heat just made you want to sleep without ever waking up. I continued to be grateful in that respect until, well, this past month.

I don't know if we're breaking records in temperatures, or if my bones are just getting a little more creaky—it may be a little of both. But we've had some pretty hot days over the last few weeks. A couple of weeks ago, I broke into a fever from what I could only attribute to a heat stroke. I could already feel the onset of a bad cold when I made off for Makati for a lunch appointment. I parked near an MRT station and took the train. Getting out the Ayala station, I had a sensation not unlike the one I described above, though this one was probably caused more by the contrast between cold and heat—the MRT trains are gratefully very cool, though that seems to be an oppression to others—rather than the devastating severity of the heat itself.

Despite keeping to the shade, I could feel the heat encroaching and retreating, like waves on the shore. By the time I got to my appointment, I was running a slight fever. Coming home made things worse. The MRT air-conditioning now gave me a chill. And to top it all, hopping into my car gave me the sensation of climbing down into an open furnace. "Hot rod" is the way souped-up cars are often called, but this seven-year-old and almost decrepit one was so literally. The wheel burned my fingers, and it took a while before the air-conditioning took effect. I was down and out for a couple of days.

Temperatures haven't tapered off since then, they've soared higher. The way things stand in fact, it looks like it'll get worse before it gets better. I know people were warning about another round of El Niño last year—I wrote about it in a column, noting the widespread anxieties over the ferocity of this particular attack—but I myself did not expect it to be this severe. One story in our local news pages says a particularly harsh dry spell has already hit Pura, a town in Tarlac. Water has dried up, and some entrepreneurs, or opportunists, depending on how you look at it, are now selling it for P1 a pail. A farmer who sunk several 20-foot pipes into the ground in anticipation of drought saw his well dry up as early as February this year.

I was in a forum in Hong Kong last week, and everyone from Asia was complaining about how hot it was when they left their countries. A Japanese said Tokyo wasn't quite as bad as the others, but he thought the weather there had gotten unusually warm. Certainly, he said, he could not recall a time when it was this warm. Everyone worried about how the crops would turn out this year.

Global warming isn't something that's going to happen, it's something that **is** happening even as we speak. And truly, it is giving me nightmares. If things can be this hot today, how will it be tomorrow? All those bleak futuristic movies that show a desert-like horizon swirling in smog—my favorite remains "Blade Runner," a marvelously, if quite frighteningly, imagined future world—come to haunt. It may be more prophetic than we think.

Frankly, I don't know why we're not rattled by the climatic changes that have taken place over the years, those particularly of my age who have all of five decades to look back on. It's scary. It makes you wonder again if we're not being foolish thinking terrorists are the foremost threat to this planet. When global warming has been stalking us like a silent assassin all this time, striking with impunity. We keep thinking we're just the victims of another heat wave. Well, waves ebb and flow, for all eternity. This one just keeps flowing.

You wonder what kind of world we'll leave our children.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Monday morning quarterbacking

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

DOUBTLESS the most popular sport in the world is Monday morning quarterbacking, which the dictionary defines as "passing judgment on or criticizing something after the event." Because people have felt the rise in their power bill due to the controversial power purchased adjustment (PPA), some quarters are blaming ex-President Ramos for over 40 contracts with independent power producers (IPPs) that Napocor forged during his administration. Of course, during the Ramos years, when these sealed contracts brought to an end the eight to 10-hour daily power outages, everyone was singing hosannas to FVR for solving a most desperate situation. A pundit even nicknamed him the King of the Light, as opposed to the soubriquet, "Prince of Darkness," earned by former Napocor chief Ernesto Aboitiz, who tried to do the best he could under the circumstances.

* * *

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Teofisto Guingona have come to Ramos' defense. Guingona, who was FVR's executive secretary and later justice secretary, cited the *kapit-sa-patalim* situation which necessitated the signing up of those IPP contracts, as the alternative would have been the destruction of the economy and massive unemployment. GMA accepted FVR's explanation that the contracts called for 12,000 megawatts of electricity, but when the Asian crisis hit the region starting in July 1997, the local power demand dwindled to just over 5,000 MW. GMA opined that no one could have predicted the Asian crisis. FVR's energy secretary, Francisco Viray, pointed out that most of those IPP contracts were consummated as early as 1993 or 1994, "so we couldn't go back on them" when the crisis struck, and that while Napocor could have built the power plants itself, it had no money, thus forcing the government to turn to the private builders on a build-operate-transfer basis. Viray opined that it was better to go into an oversupply rather than an undersupply.

* * *

By some coincidence, I saw this situation up close and graphically. Last Tuesday Trade Secretary Mar Roxas hosted a lunch in Makati for a small group of columnists which was also attended by some leaders of the semi-conductor industry in the Philippines. Roxas wanted us to hear from the industry leaders themselves the current situation in this nearly $22-billion industry, which commands 70 percent of RP exports and employs nearly 400,000 Filipinos. The electronics industry has been the RP economy's driver or engine for a long while now. From the excellent power-point presentation by Ernie Santiago, president of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines (SEIPI), it became clear to me why FVR would "miscalculate" on his prognosis for economic recovery.

* * *

The SEIPI graphs showed that in the Cory Aquino years, our electronics exports were almost flat, and two factors definitely affected them negatively: the military adventurism of the coup plotters and the massive outages. These frightened off the investors. But the graphs also showed that from 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997, the Ramos years when power supply reached its optimum level, the electronics industry also headed for a very sharp growth peak, hitting new investments of US $1.290 billion, $2.160 billion, $1.080 billion and $1.470 billion, respectively, from a low of $0.040 billion in 1992. In terms of growth, the FVR years registered 28 percent, 55 percent, 40 percent, 41 percent, respectively, before they began sliding down to 33 percent and 27 percent and 7 percent in 1998, 1999 and 2000, respectively. The years of decline saw the Asian crisis in full rage and confidence in the Estrada administration badly shaken, as GMA noted, by the BW scandal in the stock market; as the finance people point out, that scam was the biggest factor that drove the investors away in the Erap years. As a result, the power demand from the IPPs crawled at a mere 5,000 MW when a max of 12,000 MW was available.

* * *

Interestingly, as the political opposition ganged up on Aquino and Ramos the other day, they said nothing about the fact that on the same day, among the many checks presented by government prosecutors at former President Estrada's trial as having been deposited in a span of nine months in the account of Jose Velarde at the Equitable bank near his house was a check for P189.7 million. This was alleged to represent the deposed leader's commission for having ordered the investment of state pension funds in millions of BW shares. As for critics' allegation that Aquino's administration lost its chance of resolving the power crisis by shelving the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP), they don't know what they are talking about. I happened to be with the second group that fought the BNPP's operation, along with Guingona, Nene Pimentel, Raffy Recto, Bert Romulo, Jimmy Guerrero and the late Mary Concepcion Bautista and we successfully convinced the Supreme Court, then headed by Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee, that the BNPP was so studded with defects that it ought to remain shut. What became apparent then was that because Westinghouse had paid so much in advance kickbacks to some Marcos cronies, it did not bother to construct a decent plant.

* * *

My profound apologies to two distinguished friends of mine. I stated earlier that among the prominent graduates of UP Padre Faura's first undergraduate classes in the postwar, who are scheduled to have a 50th anniversary reunion at the SM Megamall this noon, is Cesar Buenaventura, "our ambassador to London." Of course Cesar Buenaventura was the first Filipino president of Shell Philippines, now retired, while our top man in London, doing very well, is Cesar Bautista. Sorry about the incredible foul-up.

Three stories

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DO parents love their children less when (or because) they plan them? Are a man and a woman who sit down, talk honestly and earnestly about their future, including the number of children they want for their family, less capable of loving these children than a couple who make no plans for the future, trusting to nature or divine benevolence the size of their family and the quality of their family life?

I make no judgments. But let me tell you a couple of stories.

Both of my children are wanted children, and indeed, "planned" children. I had nursed the notion of waiting about two or three years before getting pregnant, and so tried out natural family planning in the first month or so of my marriage. But, knowing I had only half-heartedly tried the method and still hadn't gotten pregnant, I began to worry that I might not be able to conceive, after all. So I decided to see if I could, and so I did.

After my son's birth, I got pregnant twice, but both ended in a miscarriage. My husband and I agreed that once our son had his seventh birthday and I still hadn't gotten pregnant, we would explore the possibility of adoption. Meantime, my gynecologist started me on a regime of hormonal treatments to help me conceive and carry a child to term. A few months later, I got the happy news that I was with child. Three years later, approaching the age of 35, beyond which pregnancy is considered high-risk, I brought up the possibility of having a third child.

He was driving, but the hubby spoke deliberately: "I don't think it would be fair to the child. Right now, we have only two, but already we can hardly find enough time to be with them." I asked myself: Why did I want to have a third child, anyway? Just to beat the deadline for a safe pregnancy and childbirth? Would it be in the best interests of not just this hypothetical third child, but also of my two children, and of us, their parents? We decided to stop at two.

* * *

SHE was born with a heart ailment and had been of frail health for much of her life. Then she married her childhood sweetheart, and even if her relatives warned them that pregnancy and childbirth would pose a serious threat to her health, she proceeded to get pregnant and had children one after the other, five in all. When asked, she would only say that her husband didn't believe in family planning. But once, when she told her husband who had been drinking that she was pregnant again, he cursed her and demanded to know: "How could you let that happen?" As if he didn't know.

By the time she was about to deliver her youngest child, her heart was already enlarged and she was bloated. It was clear another pregnancy and delivery would surely kill her. Her doctor, who happened to be her brother, decided to take matters into his own hands. With her consent, he performed a bilateral tubal ligation shortly after she gave birth. When told about it, her husband meekly agreed it was for the best. Today, her older children are off to college and after open-heart surgery, she couldn't be in better health.

* * *

THIS story was merely recounted to me. The family driver of a relative has 10 children, all of whom, together with the couple, are packed into a tiny shanty in southern Metro Manila.

When the driver's wife was pregnant with her sixth or seventh child, my relative's mother sat the wife down for a heart-to-heart talk. "You know this can't be good for you," the older woman began. "Can't you talk to your husband or do something yourself? Have pity on your poor body. And think of your children! Don't you want a good future for them?"

The wife cried and agreed she didn't really plan on having that many children. The trouble, she said, was her husband. "Sometimes, I wake up at night and find him on top of me, having had his satisfaction. There's nothing I can do."

What a fate, I thought, after hearing this story. Finding yourself pregnant with your 10th child, and not even experiencing the pleasure that should have gone into making that child.

* * *

IN SURVEY after survey, Filipino women have been asked how many children they had planned on having and how many children they ended up having. On average, the respondents say their desired family size was 2.7 (or three) children, but they ended up having 3.7 (or four) children instead. One of the goals of the government's family planning program is thus to help women achieve compatibility between their fertility goals and their fertility outcomes, or the number of children they desire, and the number they end up having.

Surveys also reveal that two million Filipino women of reproductive age say they need or want to practice family planning, with 1.1 million saying they don't want to have any more children, and 0.9 million saying they want to space or wait a while longer before getting pregnant again.

But 20 percent of these women also say that while they need or want to practice family planning, for one reason or another—the cost of contraceptives, or objections of the husband, for instance—they can't.

Are women (or couples) being "selfish" or unresponsive to "God's plan" when they say they want to have only the number of children they can raise as best they can? Are they being "faithless" when they choose to take seriously their parental responsibility instead of relying entirely on the benevolence of fate and the charity of family, friends and government to bring up their children?

I make no judgments. I only tell stories.

Lorna M and 'The Man from the Moon'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

I DID not learn about her passing until I came back from a river-and-beach weekend somewhere. But then it was too late. The announcement in last Saturday's INQUIRER said she was to be cremated that day. And I read about it only the following Monday. The Saturday she was cremated was around the time that I must have been gazing at the lighthouse that stood tall amid the craggy rocks and the remains of ancient corrals in that place where I sought silence and sun and endless sky.

Lorna Maza Revilla Montilla died on May 9 from complications due to asthma. The INQUIRER said, "Lorna Montilla—writer, anthropologist, painter, art patron—dies at 72." At the time of her death, Lorna was cultural adviser to Antique Gov. Sally Zaldivar-Perez. Lorna had been named one of the country's Centennial Artists by the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Now I recall Lorna's stories about a lighthouse that stood tall in her memory, in that eternal moonlight that stayed with her till her dying day. Once, she regaled our group with tales about her youth in Antique. We were her eager and wide-eyed listeners during those nights that we were in Vigan to experience culture and antiquity. Sprawled on ancient beds and tucked under billowing mosquito nets, we listened as she filled our nights with stories that happened before we were born. We laughed, gasped in disbelief.

She was writing a novel, she told me then. "The Man from the Moon" was going to be its title. And she gave me the real-life context of the love story—her own—that had become known to many when it was featured in the INQUIRER one Valentine's Day.

Before she left for a stint in the United States, Lorna left me the manuscript—10 kilos of it—of "The Song of Daay," a historical novel on Panay that took five years to write. Could I pass it on to Anvil Publishing for perusal, she asked. She also left me the manuscript of "The Man from the Moon"—19 chapters of it—(which she described in her note as "triple X-rated) for me to read. Andres Cristobal Cruz insisted on getting the other copy, she said.

"The Man from the Moon: A Passionate Love Story" is an enthralling tale based on Lorna's own experience of love, love lost and the same love found again after the passing of more than 50 years. It begins in the context of World War II, when Lorna was growing up in Antique. It is rich in cultural and historical color.

Feeling guilty that I was not there when she passed on, I went through the manuscript just before writing this column and I found a parenthetical note in bold letters running through the text. It was crying out to be noticed. It says: "Once I died and had been cremated, I would (like) my children to scatter my ashes there as well as on the sea close to the lighthouse. Then I would rest in peace, until that time I would awaken to another life and meet Capt. Gallardo again." Captain Gallardo was "the man from the moon." *Kabulan*, the man from the moon.

Ah, the lighthouse. I know what happened there. Lorna told me.

The INQUIRER item on her death did say Lorna's ashes were going to be flown to Antique then brought to Madrangca beach where Lorna had a beach house.

It is summer and beaches and reading time. So here are excerpts from Lorna's manuscript. Chapter 5 is too torrid (sextuple X, if you ask me) so here are some safe paragraphs from the novel's prologue.

"When we came back to each other, there was no more time for petty bickering. No time for petty jealousies that wafted pain. We only treasured the memory of how we met and fell in love. All I can say is, I ran back to him clean and pure. I did not have any single commitment to anyone else that could hold me back. I had only myself.

"He welcomed me with open arms and, oh yes, with profuse jubilance. And whether he was clean and pure like me didn't matter anymore. Both of us felt that the only time left for us was to be with each other every moment of his remaining days.

"Time was gold on this earth, in this so brief a life for people who were in love like us, I told him. Beyond this, there was this deep bond between us, this profound need to be with each other always, ever since we first met that is perhaps as old as mankind itself which, that we both agreed, should never have been tainted by any act of betrayal such as that which he had done to me in one reckless moment.

"He wanted to make amends, always wanted my forgiveness. And knowing that his end was near and he was free from his bondage, I gave it to him without any second thought. And his joy knew no bounds.

"Rey Gaston Gallardo's love for me was like a punctuation mark in his driven soul. He carried a comma all along that felt like a leaden cross. It was even more than that. There was this dangling sentence he wanted to put a period on. It took a long, long time. He was already sick and dying when his wife died. He knew I wouldn't take him back for as long as she was still alive and he grew old nurturing only one dream—to ask for my forgiveness and marry me whenever he had the chance. And God gave him just enough time for his wish to be granted.

"He gave me all that was left of him. To me that was enough. To him it was his ardent wish come true. I never took away more than that. Above all else, he wanted to die on top of my heart, deeply loved and forgiven. God also granted this to him...

"And because ours was a special kind of love, I promised him I would write this—that everyone who comes across it would know its reach and depth and all the joys and sorrows that attended it."

Bye, Lorna. Indeed, a profound experience of love is an experience of God, of light. I too, have a lighthouse that stands on the landscape of my heart.

I want to be a lawyer

YOUNGBLOOD

Joan A. de Venecia

We want to know what the young thinking about. What are th thoughts on current issues? We w come contributions from t twentysomething and below.—Ed.

POLITICS is in my blood and I eat the INQUIRER for breakfast. What with my St. Theresa's College activist education, love for debate and my surname (which is either a boon or a bane depending on the situation), law school seems to be the next logical step to attaining my dream of becoming a senator, or a president, or a speaker of the House even. That is, if becoming a politician is indeed my dream, as a lot of people have come to expect.

But my dream and the path leading to it, are actually nothing novel or controversial, and definitely a lot less complicated. I want to become a lawyer. As a kid I passed through several stages of career decision-making—owing, to a large extent, to the famous grade school pastime—"slum book writing." But, at the young age of 9 (around Grade 3), I finally made up mind. I want to become just like my Dad. From jotting dov "archaeologist" beside the question "dream job" (only b cause I wanted to flaunt my spelling prowess), to penni "singer" (until my music teacher tactfully advised me to keep my options open), I finally wrote "lawyer" (to which my Sibika teacher assented, with the justification *"Bagay sa 'yo, ang daldal mo kasi!"*). Unwittingly, she gave me all the encouragement I needed.

Admittedly, lawyering and lawyers in particular, have had a bad press. From being the butt of Internet jokes, to the informal survey of the typical man on the street, lawyers have been depicted as "guns for hire" and greedy bastards with no scruples and a lot less actual skill. To the question, "What do you call 10,000 lawyers drowned in the sea?" the famous reply is "a good start." This idea was even reinforced in the impeachment trial of former President Estrada, when a lady lawyer and senator expressed that it is highly unusual for a lawyer to "go down the ladder" and trade a high-paying job for a low-paying one. This impression of lawyers is by no means a totally false one. But any lover o logic would easily say that it is a tad too unfair. A part never encompasses the whole, and the existence of lawyers alluded to above does not negate the existence of lawyers who, in their own spheres of competence, do justice to the definition of law as a noble profession.

Call me an idealist, call me a woman with misplaced principles, but in almost a year of having the privilege of becoming a part of the best law school in the country, I am still convinced that some people, lawyers included, need not mak wealth their overriding goal in life. Friends joke that when finally become part of the upper strata of Philippine society they will consider working for me if the price is right, to whic I reply, "Then you will never work for me because: (A chances are nil that I will ever become a part of that class, an consequently, (B) I cannot pay you the 'right' price."

Don't get me wrong. I won't pretend to be a crusader martyr who is bent on changing society that I don't car whether I live in the slums, with kids who barely eat thre meals a day. My parents have worked so hard to give m sister and me a very comfortable life, and my kids deserv no less. All I'm saying is that at this stage in my life, I stan firm in my belief that law as a profession must rightfully b geared toward serving society and the administration of justice, and that money must be merely a secondary concern.

My Dad is the first to say that law is swamped with temptations. Now that we are actually studying Legal Ethics, it is not difficult to see why. The lure of money, fame and powe do take a heavy toll even on the most honest and principle lawyers. Add that to the idea of conditioned helplessness a great bulk of lawyers, which goes, "If you can't beat th [corrupt] system, you have no choice but to work with it And this is my greatest fear in life—that when I pass the ba and begin to be exposed to the harsh realities of our leg system that often ends up subverting justice rather than furthering it—I will be no better, or even worse, than the lawyers who give lawyering a bad name. Given the vast skil that the University of the Philippines will equip me and m classmates with, how can I be so sure that when my tim comes, I will not resort to legal loopholes and dilatory tactics to win my client's case and earn a fat paycheck, just lik the very same people who I now so immensely abhor?

But still I toil on, trying to absorb everything I can, reveling in learning something new each day, questioning th wisdom and implementation of some statutes and code and the logic of the Court's decisions. I nod emphatically some well-written and well-thought out *ponencias* (than you Justice Panganiban for making things easier for us law students with your clear and well-organized decisions), an I frown at justices whose impartiality and neutrality have been rendered suspect by the way they always seem to favor certain camps (funny, we can even predict some of th decisions by just checking out the *ponente*). I love everythin about the law, and every day I see the potential of every lawyer worth his salt to make a real difference in society.

I am just a freshman. I admit that there is still a great de to be learned [and memorized] before I can even begin fully comprehend the intricacies of the legal system which intend to make my home. I do not know what lies ahea but I find solace in the present—in my determination an passion to be the best that I can be—in law, and in life.

My dream is simple. I want to become a lawyer—wit my cherished principles and ideals still intact. It is my hop that when I grow old, with kids of my own, I will inspi them so that in choosing their own fields and profession they will one day say, as one grubby 9-year-old said to he Dad not too long ago, "Pop, I want to become just like you

Joan A. de Venecia, 21, is a freshman at the UP College of La

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THEY SAID

Benefits of Balikatan

"My happiness is indescribable, my dream is now starting to materialize. I know that I can die 10 times and not be able to purchase this equipment for my people."

—Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar on the infrastructure project of US Navy engineers in his province

Viper's tangle

"I believe it is right and proper for the President to ignore this insignificant group of self-seeking lobbyists purporting to be her allies but are intriguing to undermine her administration and the political stability of the country."

—Sen. Blas Ople on the Council for Philippine Affairs

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Make clean the house of God

LETTERS

THE ROMAN Catholic Church is beset by a series of sex scandals involving priests and sexual abuses against women and children. The problem, some say, can be traced to the Church's mandatory requirement that its clergy be celibate. I will cite the case of a priest I had the misfortune of knowing to explain why I think celibacy is not the issue here.

This particular priest breaks his vows of obedience, poverty and chastity on a daily basis. Each night, using either of two luxury cars which he owns, he picks up a bunch of young male chums from around his parish and takes them along on his cruising expeditions, visiting bars and honky-tonks and savoring whatever there is to satisfy his carnal desires. His nightly forays have become so frequent and so regular that he is known the whole length of Quezon Avenue, by the nickname behind which he hides: "Piolo." This priest, insatiable as a black hole, maintains a coterie of young men and boy toys by means of gifts and money; he has even sent one or two to school.

If "Piolo" were simply of the laity, I would not have bothered with him, but it bothers me no end that he is a priest who is tasked with the responsibility of teaching faith and morals. A morally corrupt, spiritually decadent priest given the privilege to preside over all aspects of his parishioners' lives and invested with the authority to tell us how we ought to behave, is exactly like a vampire assigned to watch over a blood bank. His access to money and people who trust him absolutely gives him the opportunity to be flagrantly disobedient, to be not poor and to be flamboyantly unchaste.

If this "alter Christus" were to continue to strut before us all his incontinent, intemperate and overindulgent humanity, if he were to make a travesty of the vows he made before God and men, shouldn't he be removed from the priesthood?

The Church should set up a review board which will process complaints of improper conduct of its clergy. It must be ready to punish these errant priests not by simply reassigning them to other parishes (where they can begin their debauchery all over again) but by casting them out permanently.

This piece is not a plea for or against celibacy, for that is a question for the Church to resolve. When we consider that very many married people fool around anyway, then we can rightly conclude that it is really a matter of commitment. "Piolo" is beholden to the god of his gonads. He cannot and will not ever be married, yet he will now and forever be a hypocrite of the first order, lying to his parishioners, his Church and his God. With donated money to burn, uncontrollable as a bitch in heat and wantonly promiscuous, he is the very exact opposite of Christ whom he is supposed to represent. His continued presence turns people away from the Church. It is priests like "Piolo" who are the real Christ-killers. This is therefore a plea for the Church to initiate moves to rid itself of the vermin within its ranks in order to make clean the House of God.

—ANTONIO CALIPJO GO,
199 Sauyo Rd., Novaliches,
Quezon City

Welcome PB!

BACK in March I featured a request from a couple, Grace and Chabs Mamolo, for "Pinoy names." The Mamolos were expecting their first-born and noted the dearth of Filipino names. I sent her a few suggestions but decided to widen the search by asking readers to send in their suggestions.

The response was heartening, with people writing in from all over the Philippines as well as from overseas. I forwarded the suggestions to Grace, who wrote back to say thanks and oops but I think my contractions have started.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Late in April Grace wrote again, proudly announcing that the bundle of joy had arrived, without anesthesia and using the Bradley natural birth method. The baby was born on April 2, 6.6 pounds and 50 cm long. (Yes, it did occur to me, we still think of weights in pounds, even as we are shifting to the metric system for heights. Anyway, let me translate—that's 3 kilos and 19.6 inches.)

I digress, intentionally, to keep you in suspense. So what did the Mamolos name their son? Ha, I'm going to get you even more intrigued and just give his nickname, which is PB.

There were all kinds of suggestions that came in through e-mail. Jose Gonzales offered no names but volunteered three guidelines: (a) avoid naming the child after scattered monuments in Metro Manila; (b) visit the NBI so as to avoid names with pending criminal charges; and (c) give a name that will give the child a personality of his own.

Eman San Andres recommended Kidlat, Kamagong, Matanglawin, Lawin, Habagat, Alapaap and Sandigan. Gino Lopez, who explained he's actually Eugene but that's too American, suggested Adal (Ilokano for learning), Laya and Likas.

Nick Liwanag said he named his daughter Mayumi, and has since found out the Japanese also use the name. Bong Braga suggested Magtanggol, Bayani, Lam-ang, Kabisig, Silayan, Tisilaw (Light), Sikatuna, Madia-as or Madja-as (his favorite), Mayon, Makiling, Kanlaon (wag lang Pinatubo), Silangan, Katimugan.

Butch Tan mentioned the Fonacier family having names like Lakan, Gasat and Anos and E. de Guia suggested Ibarra, Marikit and asked, why not names of places?

The suggestions continued to stream in even a month after I did the column, sometimes from friends I'd run into accidentally. One of them, Prof. Edru Abraham observed how Ilokano words have a lyrical quality that make them particularly alluring as names.

Edru also informed me that Prof. Felipe de Leon Jr. (yes, better known by the Pinoy nickname Jun), was compiling a book with Filipino names, drawn from all kinds of sources including folk literature from all our regions. So I checked with Jun but he says the book won't be published just yet because he has to work on other projects. He's aiming for November and is still looking for a publisher. Calling Anvil and Karina Bolasco.

Okay, okay, so what does PB stand for? Let me explain that when Grace first wrote me, she and Chabs had already decided they wanted those initials, the reason being that P. B. was, well, made in that Cebu resort,

Plantation Bay. (I was imagining PB's obstetrician delivering him and, holding him upside down, reading, "Hmm. . .Made in PB.")

Okay, enough with the suspense. The name Grace and Chabs chose was Pithaya Banwar, truly a Filipino name in the way it combines Tagalog and Ilokano terms. Pithaya means ambition, desire, an intense longing while Banwar is Ilokano and means hero. Together, Pithaya Banwar would mean aspiring to be a hero.

Banwar came from one of my former students, Malot Ingel, not through e-mail but a text message from Vigan, where Malot lives. You can see, from her suggested names, what I mean by the lyrical quality of Ilokano words: Lam-ang, Kired (for endurance), Ayat (love), Raniag (brightness), Saniata (praise) and Liwliwa (joy).

So there you have it, a wonderful crop of Filipino names. I did a bit more linguistic research around Banwar, partly because I was beginning to worry about little PB having to live up to such high expectations, imagine at 50 cm (maybe now 60?) having to be heroic?

Banwar is derived from *banwa*, a word found in many Filipino languages including those in the Visayas. It is a generic term for the natural environment but also refers to the community, the homeland, the nation-state. We can therefore extend "Banwar" to mean not just a hero in the traditional sense of the word but anyone who cares about his or her environment and community.

So, in behalf of Grace and Chabs, thanks to all who helped with their suggestions. I haven't seen so much energy and time put into choosing a name. Banwar was chosen before Grace delivered. Pithaya, however, was the product of a more conventional, if not harried, search: Grace's sister brought her a Tagalog dictionary so she browsed through the entire "P" section of a Tagalog dictionary, 30 minutes before checking out of the hospital.

Grace also explains that they chose "Banwar" because it can also be read as "Ban War," rather fitting for these turbulent times. It's a real challenge then for PB to aspire to be someone who loves his or her country, and who will do this without resorting to force and to war. They're not qualities that will make PB a politician but I think he's destined for far nobler professions. To PB, welcome, *mabuhay*, *assalamo alalaikum* and, *padayon*!

Padayon? That's a wonderful Cebuano word that means many things, used as a kind of rallying call to move forward. Nice word...and hey, it begins with the letter P...

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

)angerously flawed strategy on hybrid rice

'HE PHILIPPINE Greens would ke to call the attention of the govrnment and the public to the danerously flawed strategy of the Deartment of Agriculture to rely on ybrid rice for increasing rice prouction. If successful, this strategy an lead to future food shortages nd even widespread famine.

Hybrid rice is a new kind of rice 1at is supposed to yield 15 to 20 ercent more grains. It has, howver, several drawbacks:

- At P2,400 per bag (good for hectare), the seeds are expenve. To convince farmers to shift, 1e government will subsidize half f the seed cost. This subsidy cheme will mainly benefit the eed companies.
- Hybrid rice will require intenfied use of inorganic fertilizers to 1aximize yield. We already know 1at such chemical inputs will detroy soil fertility over the long erm. The government's fertilizer oans will mainly benefit agrohemical companies.
- Farmers cannot save harvested seeds for the next planting, because the next generation loses the hybrid's high-yield capacity. This forces farmers to buy seeds every planting season, to the delight of seed companies.
- Worst of all, if the government succeeds in getting farmers nationwide to shift to hybrid rice, we will become totally dependent on a single or very few rice varieties. This is an invitation to disaster. One major pest infestation or disease outbreak can wipe out the bulk of our production and lead to serious rice shortage and in worst cases, famine. It was a similar reliance on only two or three potato varieties which led to the great Irish potato famine of the 1800s.

A much better alternative to hybrid rice exists: this is called the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), which raises yields by 100 percent or even more, relies on compost rather than chemical fertilizers and uses fewer seeds and less water. Since the system works with traditional, farmer-improved, or Irri/Philrice varieties, farmers can stick to their favorite varieties and we can retain the vast diversity of rice varieties in the field. This avoids the dangerous reliance on a single or just a few varieties that make us so vulnerable to new pests and diseases.

SRI basically involves some simple shifts in farmers' field practices: transplant earlier, not later; wider instead of narrower distances between plants; single, not multiple plants per hill; compost, not chemical fertilizers; fight weeds not with chemicals but with mechanical weeders; and keep the soil moist, not flooded. Together, these simple shifts work synergistically. They encourage more root growth, greater tillering and extremely robust plants with more panicles that produce more grain and which are more resistant to pests, diseases and typhoons.

SRI was developed in Madagascar by French Jesuit agriculturist Fr. Henri de Laulanie in the 1980s. It has now been tried in some 16 countries, mostly through non-government efforts and trials in farmers fields, with yields typically increasing by 100 percent and reaching 8 tons/hectare per season. Farmers who have mastered the technique have reached as high as 12-15 tons/hectare. When the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) of the DA tried SRI, they raised their yields from 3.6 to 7.6 tons/hectare.

Those who want to know more about SRI can contact the secretary general of the Philippine Greens (921-5165; 0919-6087073) or the executive director of ATI/DA, or search the Web for the keywords "SRI Laulanie Madagascar".

—ROBERTO VERZOLA,
secretary general, Philippine
Greens, 108 V. Luna Road,
Sikatuna Village 1101, Quezon
City

[ime to debate, time to do

WAS quite impressed with your 1ay 7 editorial which I believed ut a stamp of approval on what 1e first summit of Philippine potical parties accomplished depite the Laban ng Demokratikong ilipino boycott.

The editorial denounces, and ghtly so, Sen. Edgardo Angara, or the reasons he cited for boyotting the summit. Denouncing im is the moral imperative—for 1 the days of one-man rule, ngara's silence was not just acuiescence to one-man rule but antamount to collaboration. And ow he reacts now to imagined 1reats to his liberty!

I am no fan of House Speaker ose de Venecia, the summit iniator, but he deserves credit for nis political feat. The brickbats 1rown at him notwithstanding, e Venecia's success in gathering 1 political parties together—naional, regional and party-list roups—is not minor. A forum of his magnitude is uncommon and he summit agenda brought out he active participation of the paries and the various sectors—inluding civil society leaders—in a ransparent process.

Let us be thankful for this iniiative by De Venecia that conronted, without the usual blindrs, our major problems and policy failures that have painfully damaged this country. The solutions prescribed by the summit may be painful but this is the closest thing to an honest analysis that we will ever get.

The hecklers of civil society (who do they claim to represent, anyway?) spewed vitriol at the summit and were busy shooting it down rather than looking at its positive contributions. This hypocrisy is revolting. While the summit was most eloquent in condemning all conspiracies and machinations to destabilize the government, these same hecklers were shamelessly pursuing their avowed objective to change the government.

The political summit offered a shared vision and common solutions. This is an excellent beginning in this fractious nation. Those who opted to stay out of it and criticized it must now reconcile themselves to the summit declaration and stop trivializing it.

There is a time to debate and this is what the political summit offered. Now is the time to put the summit declaration of principles into doable programs. In the democratic debate, the better idea, the better solution, must win.

—DENNIS S. TOBIAS, Blk 87,
Lot 20 Lagro, Novaliches,
Quezon City

SBMA clarifications on drug search

LAST Tuesday, May 7, at around 11 p.m., I received a telephone call from the SBMA Intelligence Information Office (IIO) at my hotel in Kuala Lumpur where I was then attending a conference of the Pacific Basin Economic Council. I was informed that a Philippine National Police Narcotics Group (Narcgroup) headed by Chief Insp. Napoleon G. Villegas Jr. from the National Capital Region was going to conduct a search of two vessels and a warehouse at the Naval Supply Depot (NSD), Subic Bay Freeport.

Since the Narcgroup was armed with a search warrant, I readily gave the order to the IIO to cooperate fully and to give the group back-up support. Besides, I have a personal reason to help the drive against illegal drugs as I have seen the havoc this menace has wrought on families, rich or poor, in Bataan and other provinces in Central Luzon.

The search on the vessels ended at 7:20 p.m., May 8, with negative findings. It was a thorough search as all cigarette boxes were unloaded from the vessels and placed on the yard. It was also costly to Ever Rich Transshipment who hired the stevedores to unload and then reload the boxes.

On May 10, the search at the Ever Rich warehouse at Bldg. 1026 ended. No drug of substantial quantity was found. Only traces of white crystalline substance were found scattered on the floor and a partially opened sachet of the same substance was found inside a plywood box. The test produced a positive reaction for Methamphetamine Hydrochloride (shabu). Altogether, the quantity was about 20 grams.

On the same day, May 10, another search warrant was issued for Bldg. 1036, warehouse of Bollard International, by the same Judge Enrico Lanzanas of RTC, Manila. Again, the search yielded negative results. In the meantime, the media were feasting on the event.

Now, my observation and reaction.

The Narcom should be supported in its drive against illegal drugs. But it should report the results of the search as accurately as possible. No embellishment, conjecture or speculation should be added. To do otherwise would be irresponsible. In this particular case, after two vessels and two warehouses were turned upside down and yielded only 20 gm, instead of 200 kilos, it should admit that its information was wrong! But no, insinuations were instead peddled that there must have been a tip-off enabling the company to bring out the goods. The proof? The traces and the sachet of shabu, of course! This confirms again another speculation that Subic had long been a transshipment point of illegal drugs, says the Narcom.

In the meantime, some newspapers headlined that 2,000 kilos or 2 tons of shabu were found in Subic. The report was traced to a press release from the Public Information Office of the Narcom. Now, the question of the company is, which is easier to do, haul out 2 tons of shabu (or an equivalent of 40 sacks of rice) without being detected or to plant 20 gm in the warehouse? Remember that a large contingent of the Narcgroup backed up by the Olongapo PNP was already swarming all over the place.

As chair and administrator, I do not want the Subic Bay Freeport to become a transshipment or entry port of the contraband goods. At the same time, I have to protect the innocent investors against any form of harassment. It is regrettable that the officers and employees of the company were detained inside the warehouse for three days and nights. Their lawyers had to file a case for *habeas corpus* before they were released. And yet to date, no one has been found guilty of any wrongdoing, the 20 gm allegedly found, notwithstanding.

Lastly, there is a side issue that must be raised. What was a certain Ms "General" Babot Gregorio, a girl Friday of the Gordons, doing at the NSD area during the raid? And why was lawyer Ellen Aguilar of the Olongapo City Hall present during the hearing at the court when the officers and employees of Ever Rich were released? And why was Mike Pusing, PRO of the Gordons, calling the members of the media about the raid?

Why did the Narcom coordinate with the Olongapo PNP and not with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority? It should know that the SBMA is outside the jurisdiction of the local government units. As it happened, the raiding group was already at the NSD when its members informed the SBMA Office. Their unannounced entry could have resulted in an unfortunate encounter since there were US Marines in the area awaiting transport after the Balikatan exercises.

—FELICITO C. PAYUMO,
chair and administrator, Subic
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Subic Bay Freeport Zone,
Zambales

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Sharon: No talks with corrupt, terror regime

JERUSALEM—Israeli forces pressed ahead with raids in the West Bank Tuesday, entering four villages, killing two Palestinian intelligence officers and arresting 15 suspected militants, the military said.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told parliament that raids aimed at rooting out Palestinian militants would continue, even though Israel's six-week military assault in the West Bank had ended. He also ruled out peace talks with the Palestinians until all violence ends.

"We will continue to fight terrorism by entering (Palestinian-controlled areas) when necessary," Sharon said. "There will be no sanctuary for terrorists."

Sharon was called to address Israel's Knesset after 40 members of the legislature signed a petition calling on him to explain his policies regarding a future Palestinian state.

However, Sharon did not mention the issue of a state, though his own Likud party, ignoring his advice, passed a resolution early Monday ruling out creation of such a state.

Instead, in his speech, Sharon reiterated his refusal to restart peace talks until terror attacks ended and the Palestinian leadership carried out fundamental reforms.

"There can be no peace with a corrupt terror regime that is rotten and dictatorial," Sharon said in reference to the Palestinian Authority headed by Yasser Arafat. "There must be a different authority."

Only then could the two sides work out an accord for a "long-term interim period," that could eventually be followed by a final peace agreement, he said.

The Palestinians have rejected Sharon's proposals, saying they are not interested in interim agreements. They will enter peace talks only if they are focused on a final settlement and creation of a Palestinian state. *AP*

Arab-Americans want US to stay neutral in conflict

WASHINGTON—For years, James Zogby couldn't get some US politicians to even meet with him. Some refused donations, others endorsements. Over time Zogby made headway, gaining political influence for Arab-Americans and the causes they care about.

Then came the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States by Islamic extremists from Arab countries, and a backlash. After that, it was Palestinian suicide bombings, Israeli military reprisals and a renewed and deadly conflict in the Middle East.

Now, as both sides' efforts to gain public support in the Mideast conflict reach a fever pitch, Arab-Americans are once again trying to ensure their opinions are heard by the lawmakers who represent them.

This week, Zogby's Arab American Institute brought about 200 people from 22 states across the country to lobby their congressmen on Capitol Hill. They met with 45 members of Congress with a message that the United States should remain a neutral broker in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. *AP*

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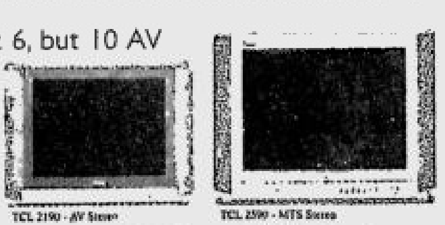

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Nato moves closer to Moscow's doorstep

REYKJAVIK, Iceland—A day after Nato and Russia officially relegated the Cold War to history by agreeing to combat terrorism together, the alliance stepped up preparations to move its border closer to Moscow's doorstep.

Nato foreign ministers planned talks Wednesday with the 10 eastern European candidates hoping to join the alliance during a special summit in Prague next November. At the same time, they were also seeking to improve relations with nations in the Caucasus and Central Asia on Russia's southern borders.

Prime candidates to join Nato, despite Moscow's objections, include the Baltic nations of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, which all have borders with Russia. Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania and Bulgaria also are expected to get the go-ahead in Prague.

Despite Russia's historic agreement to establish a council with the 19-nation alliance to combat common security threats in the post-Sept. 11 era, Moscow continues to have reservations about expansion.

"We continue to think that a mechanical enlargement is no more than a hangover from the past. It won't increase security either for those countries or for Nato," said Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov.

Nato, however, remains undeterred, contending that expansion will improve regional security and encourage fledgling democracies.

"Our commitment to maintaining an open door to new members remains as strong as ever. Enlargement strengthens our alliance," said Nato Secretary General Lord Robertson.

The final day of the ministerial meeting in Iceland will bring 46 nations around the table, many from the old Soviet sphere of influence, to assess closer cooperation in the face of common challenges such as international terrorism. The list includes nations ranging from Ireland to Uzbekistan to Albania.

The foreign ministers acknowledged that new threats mean Nato missions could be executed out of alliance territory, making good relations with such nations all the more important.

"Nato must be able to field forces that can move quickly to wherever they are needed, sustain operations over distance and time, and achieve their objectives," the ministers said in a statement Tuesday.

The fallout of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks drove home the need for broad international cooperation, which now extends to Russia, Robertson said.

"It is impossible to overstate the importance of this recognition that we must stand together in defending our common values and interests in the face of the challenges of a new century," Robertson said.

The new Nato-Russia Council will set joint policy on a fixed range of issues including counterterrorism, controlling the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, missile defense, peacekeeping and management of regional crises, civil defense, search-and-rescue at sea, promoting military cooperation and arms control. *AP*

Croat Serb rebel leader, former Yugoslav general turn themselves in

THE HAGUE, Netherlands—A former Croatian Serb rebel leader and an ex-Yugoslav Army officer arrived in the Netherlands on Wednesday to turn themselves in to the UN war crimes tribunal.

Milan Martic and Gen. Mile Mrksic were whisked from the tarmac at Amsterdam's Schiphol in a blue van, escorted by a Dutch police jeep, and driven toward the UN detention center outside The Hague to await a summons from the court to appear within a week and plead to war crimes charges.

Martic led rebel Serbs opposed to Croatia's declaration of independence from Yugoslavia in 1991. He was indicted by the tribunal in connection with the shelling of the Croatian capital of Zagreb in May 1995, which killed several civilians and injured dozens.

"I'm voluntarily traveling to The Hague to find out under whose will we (the Croatian Serbs) were chased out" from Croatia in 1995, Martic told dozens of Croatian Serb supporters at the airport. "If there is justice, I'll be back soon."

In the first years of the Croatian Serb rebellion, Martic was close to Slobodan Milosevic, the former Yugoslav president now being tried by the tribunal for alleged war crimes committed by Serb forces in Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo.

The two fell out after Milosevic—back then president of Serbia, the dominant Yugoslav republic—turned his back on Croatian Serbs and allowed Croatian forces to retake the rebel-held territories in 1995 without a serious fight. Martic then ordered the retaliatory missile attack on Zagreb.

The chief war crimes prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte, recently said that the indictment against Martic would be expanded soon to include specific wartime actions by his troops in Croatia where thousands were killed and tens of thousands chased from their homes between 1991 and 1995.

Martic, who had been hiding in Bosnia and Serbia since 1995, is one of six Serb suspects offering to surrender voluntarily to the tribunal rather than face possible arrest and extradition. *AP*

Sanctions against Iraq overhauled

UNITED NATIONS—The UN Security Council's unanimous vote to overhaul sanctions against Iraq caps a yearlong effort by the United States and Britain to get more humanitarian goods to ordinary Iraqis and try to keep weapons of mass destruction out of Saddam Hussein's hands.

Russia's UN Ambassador Sergey Lavrov said after Tuesday's vote that the next step was for the council to discuss "a comprehensive settlement" of the sanctions issue—including steps that would lead to suspending the military embargo on Iraq.

The council imposed sanctions after Saddam's forces marched into Kuwait in 1990. Sanctions can only be lifted when UN weapons inspectors declare that Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs have been dismantled along with the long-range missiles to deliver them.

But inspectors left Iraq ahead of US and British airstrikes in December 1998, and Iraq has banned them from returning.

The United States has threatened to use force if Saddam doesn't allow inspectors to return.

Iraq has maintained that its weapons programs have been eliminated and has complained vociferously that sanctions are hurting the Iraqi people and destroying the country's economy.

Heeding the plea, the council in 1996 launched the oil-for-food program to help the Iraqi people cope with sanctions. It allowed Iraq's oil revenue to be used to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies.

The program has since expanded to cover such public services as education and water supply and has become the mainstay of the Iraqi economy.

The United States and Britain claim Saddam has diverted badly needed humanitarian resources to buy weapons and luxury items for senior military and government leaders.

The council's 15-0 vote Tuesday extended the oil-for-food program for six months starting May 30 and made the greatest change in its operation since it began—allowing the free flow of most civilian goods into Iraq and adopting a 332-page checklist of civilian items with potential military use. *AP*

MOST wanted Maoist leaders in Nepal: Baburam Bhattarai (left), Hishila Yami, Ram Bahadur Thapa, and Pushpa Kamal Dahal. AFP

Maoist rebel tells of 3 years of no alcohol, radio, card games

NEPALGUNJ, Nepal—For three years, Rek Bahdadur Gharti says, he trudged through Nepal's dense forests as a Maoist guerrilla.

He said he was forbidden alcohol, radio and card games, but could have been given sexual access to the group's female fighters had he wanted it.

Gharti, a freckled 19-year-old, said he survived on pocket money of $2 a month given by his "platoon commander," and thought about the young girl he had married and left behind when he trained to be a fighter.

Gharti is among the several thousand young people who have joined the Maoists since 1996, drawn by a desire for liberation from crushing poverty, a passion about the promised revolution or sheer terror.

"I think more than 50 percent of people are forcefully taken by the Maoists," Gharti said, occasionally raising his clenched fist as he told his story during a military-guided tour to the western battle zone last weekend.

Pushpa Kamal Dahal, a bespectacled, bearded former politician who now calls himself "Prachanda," or "the fierce one," leads the underground movement aimed at toppling the constitutional monarchy and redistributing land to the poor in this Himalayan kingdom sandwiched between India and China.

In a light brown T-shirt and pajama trousers, Gharti sat unguarded in a field at a military base in Nepalgunj, away from soldiers, speaking freely and confidently.

Western government officials in Katmandu who have interviewed Gharti said his story sounded genuine. He was arrested last November when soldiers raided a village where he was hiding after a deadly rebel raid on an army garrison.

"I was a section commander. I was given training in crawling, zigzag running, back jumping, staircase crossing, monkey climbing, monkey walking, and other drills," Gharti said.

As he was slowly promoted in the hierarchy, Gharti said, he watched commanders try villagers in their quick-justice courts—and almost always mete out a brutal punishment.

He fired at police and soldiers with a World War II-era rifle seized from a police station.

"I have not killed anyone myself," he claimed, speaking in the Nepali language. "But I watched the others kill a lot of people."

There was the rush of adrenaline before a difficult attack—but few other joys, he said. The Maoist leaders have banned the fighters—and villagers under their control—from listening to the radio, playing cards or drinking alcohol.

The tough life of constant training and shifting from place to place was much worse for the women in the ranks, he said.

"I had heard that the girls are forced to have sex. I wasn't involved, but the girls complained to me, saying they had been exploited," Gharti said. "I am married and I did not do that."

According to the Army, the rebels rape women in their ranks; torture, rape and mutilate their victims; and use civilians as human shields in battles.

The rebels deny the allegations and, in turn, accuse the Army of large-scale human rights violations and summary executions.

Gharti said a local rebel commander forced him to join in 1999 after he had quit school, done odd jobs in neighboring India and returned home to his village in the western Rolpa district, where the Maoist rebellion was born in 1996.

He claimed he tried to escape. One night, when there was little else to eat, he was asked to go and make popcorn for his group's dinner. He said he fled and was recaptured within days.

Last Nov. 24, Gharti and his comrades were summoned by the commander of their platoon, Tirth Bahadur Pun, to a designated meeting place. Pun spread out a detailed map, showing buildings, roads, and military positions.

"He gave us instructions. We started to walk in the night," Gharti said. "We walked for two days. It was plain land, and we did not know where we were walking."

On the night of Nov. 26, Gharti said he and 100 other fighters, including several girls, fired for two hours at Army garrisons, attacking for the first time in Dang district, 400 km west of the capital, Katmandu.

Gharti said 14 soldiers were killed and many self-loading rifles were seized. A few days later, as soldiers searched villages and questioned suspects, he was arrested.

The Army says there were 6,000 to 8,000 Maoist fighters when King Gyanendra ordered a national emergency and military campaign on Nov. 26, after the guerrillas that declared peace talks had stalemated and resumed attacks on the government.

The Army estimates at least 1,500 have died since then, and that 25,000 village-based members make up what the guerrillas call the "militia." *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, May 16, 2002
7th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11
Gospel: Jn 17:20-26

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed, "I pray not only for these but also for those who through their word will believe in me. May they all be one as you Father are in me and I am in you. May they be one in us; so the world may believe that you have sent me.

I have given them the Glory you have given me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. Thus they shall reach perfection in unity and the world shall know that you have sent me and that I have loved them just as you loved me.

Father, since you have given them to me, I want them to be with me where I am and see the Glory you gave me, for you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world has not known you but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me. As I revealed your Name to them, so will I continue to reveal it, so that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I also may be in them."

Commentary

Jesus prays for the one thing we most need and find hardest to achieve: unity. What prevents us from being united is first, greed, and second, our natural instinct of self-preservation. Jesus was without greed and prepared to be vulnerable. Evidently that's what God is like. Those who are in God have what it takes to be united and it does not come without a great personal cost known as Love. "Love," that word we throw around so carelessly, is what makes God tick. It says: "I want you to have life in all its fullness. There is nothing I will not give, willingly, for this." God shares with us this way of being, which involves a commitment to spend our lives promoting fuller life for those who lack basic needs or fullness.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LABOR LAW (LABOR RELATIONS LAW)—Termination for just and authorized causes—The valid causes are categorized into 2 groups: the just causes under Articles 282 of the Labor Code and the authorized causes under Articles 283 and 284 of the same Code. The just causes are: (1) serious misconduct or willful disobedience of lawful orders in connection with the employee's work; (2) gross or habitual neglect of duties; (3) fraud or willful breach of trust; (4) commission of a crime or an offense against the person of the employer or his immediate family member or representative; and analogous causes. The authorized causes are: (1) the installation of labor-saving devices; (2) redundancy; (3) retrenchment to prevent losses; and (4) closing or cessation of operations of the establishment or undertaking, unless the closing is for the purpose of circumventing the provisions of law. Article 284 provides that an employer would be authorized to terminate the services of an employee found to be suffering from any disease if the employee's continued employment is prohibited by law or is prejudicial to his health or to the health of his fellow employees. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez, Perpetual Help Credit Cooperative, Inc. v. Faburada, G. R. No. 121948, October 8, 2001]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

Murder tale enthralls Japanese

TOKYO—As nurses, they thought they had the recipe for the perfect crime.

The evening started, police say, with a pot of curry laced with crushed sleeping pills, fed to the husband of one of the four friends. Then, after making sure he was out cold, they shoved rubber tubes up his nostrils, pumped him with a liter of whiskey and injected his veins with water.

Tsuyoshi Kumon was dead by morning.

Since the arrest of the four women last month in southern Japan, this nation famous for its low crime rates has been both appalled and fascinated by this tale alleging murder for insurance money.

The story has hit a raw nerve not only because of the cold-blooded manner in which the murder allegedly was carried out, but because it comes amid a growing distrust of the medical profession in general.

Japan has recently gone through a string of medical scandals in which nurses have been accused of bumping off "difficult" patients and doctors of covering up malpractice deaths.

"People consider nursing to be a special profession and put a lot of hope in nurses. They feel betrayed," said Masachi Osawa, a sociologist at Kyoto University.

As details of the latest affair emerge, it is dominating TV chat programs, tabloid newspapers and weekly magazines.

So far, the four have been charged only with Kumon's murder three years ago. But media quote investigators as linking them to the 1998 death of another husband and the attempted murder of the mother of one of them. *AP*

Carter tells Cubans about effort to bring democracy to their island

HAVANA—Speaking in Spanish in a live, uncensored broadcast, former US President Jimmy Carter gave Cubans a glimpse of Western-style democracy, revealing to them the existence of a grass-roots campaign to bring civil liberties to the communist-ruled island.

The speech Tuesday by the former president, the highest ranking American to visit the island since its 1959 revolution, was unprecedented, and amounted to a carefully balanced appeal for America to drop its embargo, and for Cuba to join the democracies of the Western Hemisphere.

"We hope that someday soon, you can reach across the great divide that separates our two countries and say, 'We are ready to join the community of democracies,'" Carter said.

"And I hope that Americans will soon open our arms to you and say, 'We welcome you as our friends.'"

Perhaps the most significant moment in Carter's prepared text dealt with the Varela Project, a campaign to demand changes in the socialist system that governs Cuba's 11 million people. It is not discussed in the state-controlled media.

For many Cubans listening to Carter on radio and television, it was the first time they had heard of it and it seemed to make many of them uncomfortable.

"I respect his opinions," said Graciela Rodriguez, a 50-year-old secretary. "This gentleman was president and is convinced of his ideas. But he is not Cuban."

In this still closed society, people are unaccustomed to the public airing of opinions that differ from their government's. Rather, Cubans seemed happier talking about Carter's hopeful words about bettering relations.

"On the day that relations between our countries are normalized, Cuba should thank Carter" said Gisela Frances, a 36-year-old office worker. "He has planted an important little seed." *AP*

Lack of funds hampers DNA testing of suspected rapists

WASHINGTON—Lack of money is resulting in hundreds of thousands of DNA samples going untested even though they could identify or clear alleged rapists, witnesses told a US Senate panel.

Moreover, state and local governments have not entered enough DNA samples from convicted felons to match to the DNA samples that police and hospitals take from rape victims, senators were told Tuesday.

"There are literally thousands of inmate DNA samples waiting to be tested and entered into the data bank," said Debbie Smith, who was raped in 1989. Her attacker was found in 1995 after a DNA sample taken from a prison inmate matched one taken from evidence from her case.

"Answers to the questions of a rape victim, her freedom and peace, could be sitting on a shelf," Smith said in emotional testimony in front of a Senate Judiciary subcommittee. "It breaks my heart to see shelf after shelf filled with old, untested rape kits, each kit representing a life in turmoil."

Dwight Adams, assistant director of the FBI's laboratory division, said the Combined DNA Index System had assisted in 4,719 investigations in 32 states and two federal laboratories.

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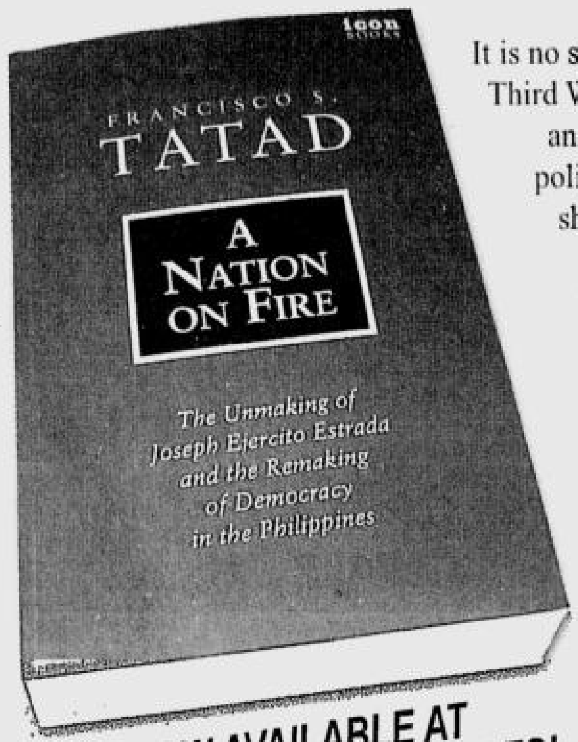
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It is no small tragedy that a country which had preceded most of the Third World in the art of democracy and whose sociopolitical ethos and living standards only elicited envy had suddenly become a political and economic backwater - disparaged by its neighbors, shunned by foreign investors, and disowned by some citizens. What has gone wrong? What must Filipinos do to regain what they had lost? And what must they do to catch up with their more fortunate neighbors?

This book examines these questions from the perspective of one who would neither belittle nor magnify the problems, but who nevertheless believes with all his heart that the country will rise again.

The book looks into the trial of Joseph Ejercito Estrada, the first Filipino President ever impeached. In the middle of the trial in 2001 he was overthrown in a coup. Could Estrada have survived an acquittal had the trial continued? Could the rest of the nation have survived? Clearly, it was a historic test for Filipinos.

Deeply concerned about the wrecking of their Constitution and its impact on their standing in the world, Filipinos are eager to do their best to repair the injury and regain whatever they had lost. But nothing short of an overhaul of the body politic is needed. The entire nation, not just government, must reinvent itself. The nation must find the courage to recast its Constitution, its institutions, its view of the world itself.

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LGU VICTORY

Firm to pay ₱113M in taxes

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—After six years of litigation, the Regional Trial Court has ordered the implementation of its earlier ruling mandating Asia's biggest coal corporation to pay real property taxes to Caluya town amounting to at least P113 million.

In a five-page order dated April 29, acting Presiding Judge Nery Duremdes of the Antique RTC Branch 13 in Culasi town granted the motion for execution of judgment filed by the Caluya municipal government on Jan. 29 in Civil Case No. C-051 against Semirara Coal Corp. (SCC).

In granting the motion, Duremdes dismissed SCC's opposition filed on March 12.

The order upheld the decision of then Presiding Judge Antonio Natino in 1999 as modified by a resolution handed down by Duremdes on Sept. 7, 2000.

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by then Caluya Mayor Nikita Frangue in December 1996 after SCC failed to comply with the municipal government's repeated demands for the payment of the taxes.

SCC, now known as Semirara Mining Corp., is owned by D.M. Consunji Inc. For more than 20 years, it has been operating the biggest coal mine in Asia on the 5,500-hectare Semirara Island, one of the nine islands comprising Caluya.

In its complaint filed before Judge Natino, the municipality of Caluya asked SCC to pay real property taxes from Jan. 1, 1992 to Dec. 31, 1996 amounting to P22,173,361.13 and an additional P150,000 in damages.

But SCC argued that it was exempted from paying all taxes except income tax based on Presidential Decree No. 972 known as the "Coal Development Act" issued on July 27, 1976.

The firm also cited the Coal Operating Contract and Memorandum of Agreement with the Energy Development Board it entered into in 1977 and 1978, respectively, which the SCC claimed provided for the tax exemptions.

But the Caluya municipal government claimed that whatever tax exemptions SCC enjoyed in the past were "superceded, canceled and/or set aside" by the enactment of Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 that gave taxation power to local government units.

In a 15-page decision on Dec. 16, 1999, Natino upheld the Caluya municipal government's position and ordered SCC to pay the amount demanded by the town.

Natino also ordered SCC to pay the municipality real property tax annually from Jan. 1, 1997 "and the succeeding years thereafter..." based on the appraisal of the Caluya municipal treasurer.

SCC filed a motion for reconsideration, but this was denied on Sept. 7, 2000 by Duremdes who took over as presiding judge of RTC Branch 13.

Duremdes also increased SCC's liability by ordering it to pay interest at the rate of "two percent per month, but not to exceed 36 months, on its unpaid real property taxes commencing on April 1, 1992 or when such taxes became due... until they shall have been fully paid."

Based on Duremdes' resolution and the assessment of the municipal treasurer of Caluya, SCC's liabilities including penalties reached P113,540,539.07 as of 2000, said provincial prosecutor Napoleon Abiera, legal counsel of Caluya town in the case.

SCC brought the case to the Supreme Court on Oct. 31, 2000 by filing a petition for review on certiorari. In a resolution dated Dec. 11, 2000, the High Court denied the petition because, among other things, it was filed after the 15-day prescription period for the filing of appeals.

After denying two motions for reconsideration on March 14, 2001 and Aug. 20, 2001, the Supreme Court recorded its Dec. 11, 2000 resolution in the Book of Entries of Judgments.

In a last ditch attempt to nullify the Antique RTC decision, SCC filed a petition for annulment of judgment before the Court of Appeals.

It cited the lack of jurisdiction of the Antique RTC to order the payment of real property taxes after Dec. 31, 1996 and succeeding years because the plaintiff did not ask for this.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi36° Lo 20°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 27° Lo 17°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 40° Lo 24°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 35° Lo 27°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 36° Lo 26°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 34° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 22°

Compiled by: Roy Leyesa, PDI Research/05/16/02

ROUNDUP

Equipment donation

BAGUIO CITY—The United States Drug Enforcement Agency is donating modern equipment to the Cordillera police to effectively identify and destroy marijuana plantations in the region, the Cordillera police said. Chief Supt. George Aliño, Cordillera police director, said the US-DEA had sent one of its officials, Jeff Wendling, to study the factors behind the police failure to destroy marijuana plantations in the country. Wendling, according to Aliño, focused on the lack of equipment by the regional police. He said Wendling proposed the donation of the equipment that consist of four satellite telephones and a digital locator GPS (global positioning system).

Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cop killed in shootout

BAGUIO CITY—A policeman and a suspected gang member were killed on Thursday when police engaged in a shootout at least five members of a robbery and car theft gang operating in the city. Chief Supt. Villamor Bumanglag, city police chief, said the gang members, who posed as policemen, were responsible for seven robberies in the city since January. P02 Antonio Botican was killed in a gunfight with the suspects in Barangay Crystal Cave here at around 2 a.m. Suspected gang member Victor Duwagen, 26, was also killed in the shootout. Another suspect, Jason Balotoc, 23, was arrested, but his three companions, including a woman, escaped.

Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Itogon ecozone

ITOGON, Benguet—Officials want to revive an economic zone proclamation issued by then President Fidel Ramos to hasten the town's development, especially with the decline of mining operations. Mayor Mario Godio is pushing for the revival of Proclamation 1248, which declared a 13.3-hectare land in Barangays Tuding and Gumatdang here an economic zone. Godio said the proclamation could attract investments and other income-generating activities, like eco-tourism.

Nathan Alcantara, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Inaccurate reports

CAPAS, Tarlac—The United States military has no plans to reclaim the 17,000-hectare Crow Valley gunnery range here and establish a permanent base in it, an official said. Col. Chuck O' Neill, chief of the 1st Aircraft Wing of the US Marine Corps, called "inaccurate" reports that the American military planned to stay in the Philippines. "That has never been our intent. Our intent is to continue to train hopefully with our counterparts in the Armed Forces of the Philippines as we are allies, and come back here whenever we are invited for joint and combined exercises," he said. O'Neill's unit used Crow Valley for the recent Balikatan 02-2.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Hot spots

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has identified 28 illegal logging hot spots in Bicol. But only six of the areas are classified as recurring or where illegal logging still exists, according to Oscar M. Hamada, DENR regional executive director. The hot spots are Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte; Lagonoy, Camarines Sur; Viga, Catanduanes; Caramoan, Catanduanes; Bulusan, Sorsogon; and Barangays Dap-Dap and Victory Village in Legazpi City. Naga and Tabaco cities serve as delivery points.

Tony S. Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Militiaman slain

DAVAO CITY—A militiaman was killed while a soldier was wounded in an ambush by New People's Army rebels in Sitio Barugo, Barangay Gabuyan in Kapalong, Davao del Norte, on Saturday night. Killed was Saturnino Albores, while wounded was Cpl. Marciano Balmes, a member of the 72nd Infantry Battalion. Col. Pete Aguhob, 72nd IB chief, said a team of soldiers was sent to the area to check reports that Albores' brother was being recruited by rebels led by a certain Commander Sitoy of the NPA's Front Committee 35.

Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Police blamed

DIGOS CITY—The family of a suspect in a stabbing incident here is blaming police for the death of their relative inside his cell. Omar Aguam, father of 18-year-old Kasa Nur, said his son's body bore bruises which indicated that he was "beaten black and blue." But Chief Insp. Noel Saniel, city police director, said he believes the inmate died of a natural cause or an ailment. Saniel also said he did not notice any unusual marks in the inmate's body. ***Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Exec says ₱800M yearly lost to piracy

BACOLOD CITY—Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) chair Lualhati Buenafe on Monday said the government was losing P800 million annually to video piracy, putting the country among the Top 10 of an international piracy watchlist.

Buenafe said the estimated amount was based on the number of video materials which the VRB had confiscated.

"The proliferation of pirated video tapes has also caused a drastic drop in the number of films produced in the country," said Buenafe, who was here on Monday to meet with operators and owners of video shops.

Buenafe said 56 films were expected to be produced this year. The figure was lower compared to the 86 produced last year and 187 in 2000, she added.

She said the drop in the number of films was due to the high cost of production, as well as the proliferation of the practice of illegal reproduction of the films by video pirates.

Buenafe said her office has intensified the drive against video piracy.

This year, she said, they have confiscated seven illegal replicating machines, which were brought into the country in disassembled parts and declared as injection plastic molds at the postal office.

"Our problem is that we can not ban or regulate the importation of replicating materials since these are not illegal *per se*," she said.

She added that the Bureau of Customs has no reason to seize these items, especially when their importers have paid proper taxes and duties.

Buenafe admitted difficulty in looking for the persons who replicated the pirated videos because of a shortage in intelligence funds.

"We can't buy information, offer rewards or pay assets to conduct surveillance," she said. ***Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

CHITO VECINA

SAMAR DUSK

It's not your typical tourist destination, but Tubabao Island, Eastern Samar, offers views that are as picture perfect as those in places one sees on tourism posters, like this view of the sunset in Barangay San Pedro.

Probe of Coast Guard cover-up of sinking urged

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

MARIPIPI, Biliran—Philippine Coast Guard Commandant Vice Admiral Reuben Lista sent another team of investigators to Biliran after Rep. Gerry Espina accused a CG investigator from Cebu of attempting to cover up the inquiry into the sinking of the MB Nilode.

Lista also assured Espina in their phone conversation on Tuesday night that he would take drastic action against CPO Edilberto Macabuhay (not Makabuhay as earlier reported).

But CG Central Eastern Visayas District Commander Commodore Miguel Tabares and Lt. Alex Germina, former Tacloban CG station command, came to Macabuhay's defense.

Both claimed that there was no attempt to cover up the investigation when Macabuhay told Alfredo Malanan, owner of the Nilode, to sign on a blank piece of paper.

Tabares said Macabuhay could no longer continue the investigation because Lista had sent another team of investigators to Biliran following Espina's charges.

The new team, he added, was expected to arrive in Biliran yesterday afternoon.

Macabuhay was one of the investigators tasked by Tabares with determining the culpability of the CG personnel in Naval on the sinking of the motorboat.

Four CG personnel have been relieved for allowing the Nilode to leave Naval for Maripipi with more than 100 passengers on board although the vessel's capacity was only 30.

The motorboat capsized 20 minutes after it left the wharf. Nineteen persons were killed, all residents of Maripipi who went to Naval, the provincial capital, to take part in the 10th founding anniversary of Biliran province. Maripipi is just an hour and 30 minutes by boat from Naval.

But Macabuhay asked Malanan to affix his signature on a piece of long bond paper when the CG investigator went to his house in Barangay Danao on Monday.

Biliran Rep. Gerardo Espina and his son, Biliran Gov. Rogelio Espina, confronted Macabuhay on Tuesday at the Maripipi town hall.

Macabuhay told the Espinas that he only wanted to get a sample of Malanan's signature. But when Congressman Espina wrote an X on the blank portion of the paper, Macabuhay reportedly tore it into pieces.

Espina said the paper could be used to put the blame on Malanan on the tragedy.

But Tabares said getting the signature was just an "investigative technique" adopted by Macabuhay.

Germina, who was relieved as Tacloban CG station commander on Monday, also stood by Macabuhay.

"It was made as part of our procedure and not for any other purpose. There was no attempt to cover up," he said before leaving for Cebu City to face an inquiry on the tragedy.

Germina said Macabuhay was just trying to get the specimen of Malanan's signature because the ship owner might deny that he signed the apprehension report issued by the Naval Coast Guard before the boat sailed.

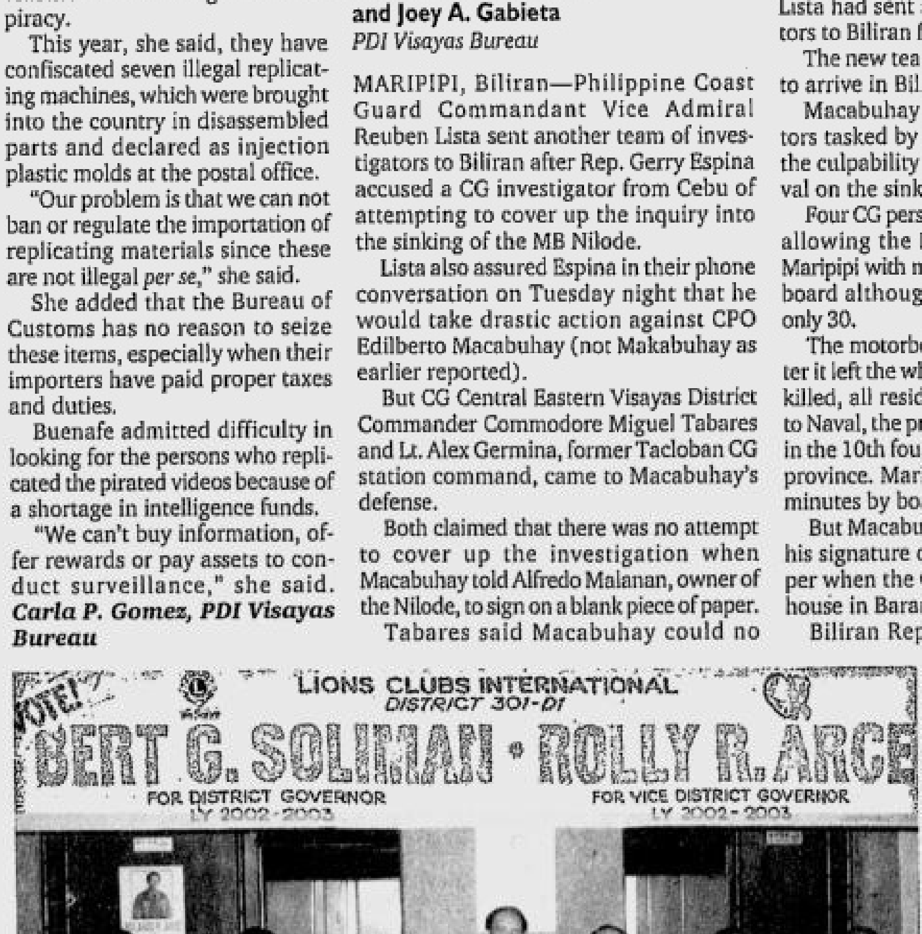
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PHOTO FROM ROLLY ARCE

LIONS ELECTIONS

Starting today until May 18, members of Lions Clubs nationwide will meet in Olongapo City to elect their district governors and vice governors among other things. One of those vying for the position of vice governor is Rolly Arce, whose streamer is shown here during the launching of his candidacy.

Priest urges NPA rebs to leave Cotabato town, allow progress

COTABATO CITY—A Catholic missionary has urged New People's Army guerrillas operating in the hinterland villages of Arakan, Cotabato, to withdraw so that development can take place in the area.

Fr. Giorgio Licini of the Pontifical Institute of Foreign Missions, parish priest of Arakan town, said it would even be better if the rebels surrender and work hand in hand with the government to. bring peace in the area.

He said that instead of spending funds to recruit and train guerrillas, the NPA could spend for farm tools, which the poor need in upgrading their lives.

"The NPAs recruit, train and give young boys and girls firearms that are more expensive than working animals and school tuition," Licini said in a statement read over radio station dxND in Kidapawan City.

But while urging the rebels to withdraw or surrender, Licini also called on the government to initiate a dialogue for peace in the town.

He said the government should also put in place facilities to meet the basic needs of the people.

"People complain of lack of presence of (government) institutions, especially the PNP, and other government basic service providers," Licini said. ***Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

INQUIRER Southern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◎ Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Batangueños await return of 'tawilis'

By Mei Magsino
Sta. Teresita, Batangas

TAWILIS, the world's only freshwater herring and found only in the Taal Lake, is a vanishing species.

Tawilisan in Barangay Bihis in Sta. Teresita town in Batangas used to be the central buying station of *tawilis* from the fishing village of Saimsim and nearby Agoncillo town. Now, it is just a landmark.

Rogelio Bathan, 55, Saimsim barangay chair, said he and other fishermen used to haul as much as two tons of *tawilis* from the lake in 1965. But since then first lady Imelda Marcos and the then Bureau of Fisheries dumped thousands of carp fingerlings into the lake in 1970, the *tawilis* population has slowly diminished.

May is the month of the *tawilis* in Saimsim, when the fish is abundant in the lake. But up to now, Bathan said he had seen only a few fish.

"Last week, a fisherman caught eight *tawilis,*" Bathan said. "That has so far been the biggest catch these days." Last year, the biggest haul was only 20 kilos.

Tawilisan is now a buying center for *tilapia* and *bangus* (milkfish).

"Maybe we should start calling it Tilapiaan, now that only *tilapia* is (being) sold here," said Angelito Gumapac, 42, Bihis barangay chair.

But even the *tilapia* and milkfish no longer come from Saimsim. "We buy our fish now from Pulo," Bathan said, "and it is expensive." Pulo is the Taal Volcano island in the middle of the crater lake.

Precious

Gloria Bathan (not related to Rogelio), 50, a fish vendor in Tawilisan, said the herring has been rarely sold in the area.

Sometimes, she would find a fisherman selling as many as 20 *tawilis*, which she peddles to households for P2 apiece. It is the first fish to be sold out in the morning, she said.

"Like the INQUIRER here, you can no longer buy *tawilis* beyond 8 a.m.," she said.

Ernesto Martija, 34, a *tawilis* vendor from Balete town, said the fish catch started to dwindle in 1997.

"Now, the *tawilis* in Balete is as precious as gold," Martija said. "Back in 1996, we could buy fresh *tawilis* for P50 a kilogram, but now the price has tripled and quadrupled."

These days, the *tawilis*, small as it is, is sold at P2 apiece, he said.

The owner of the only restaurant that serves fried or roasted *tawilis* twice a week, the Rose and Grace Bulalo restaurant in Sto. Tomas town, said the *tawilis* is now so rare that they have to go as far as Balete, some 40 kilometers away, to buy the fish.

Vanishing

Tawilis (Herrengula sp.) was once abundant in Batangas. Fishing towns around the Taal Lake—which include Sta. Teresita, Agoncillo, San Nicolas, Talisay, Balete, Tanauan and Laurel—enjoyed the biggest bounty of *tawilis* catch from the lake.

The yellowish fish was up to six inches long, its meat tender and belly oozing with fat. Its bones were so soft that one can gobble up an entire fish—fried, roasted or cooked as *sinigang* with *sampaloc* or *kalamyas*.

Now, Balete fishermen could catch only a few fish, whose length is only three inches. The meat is tough with no belly fat.

Vilma Mortel, assistant provincial agriculturist based in the capitol in Batangas City, said the vanishing *tawilis* has been a longtime problem of the province.

"The unconsumed and decomposing fish feeds that settle at the bottom of the lake might have caused the decrease in population. But we're still studying it," Mortel said.

"We have started regulating (fishing activities) and we have already minimized the construction of fish cages in the Taal Lake."

Since the fish culture trend in the early '90s, more fish cages have been constructed in the lake, contributing to the gradual disappearance of the fish, he said.

Only 10 percent of the lake area is designated for fish cages, but some owners constructed pens even in areas that were declared fish sanctuaries.

"We have coordinated with local government units to stop (the construction of) those illegal fish cages," said provincial agriculturist Virgilio Mercado.

Since their office imposed the restriction, operations of 30 percent of the illegal fish cages have stopped, he said.

The fish cages along the Pansipit River have also blocked other herrings such as the *dumpilas* and *manamse*, which used to migrate from the Balayan Bay, passing through the river, to breed in the Taal Lake.

Since the bigger herrings could not breed with the *tawilis*, the latter began in-breeding, resulting in a smaller, tough-skinned and white freshwater species that have replaced what used to be Batangas' pride.

Illegal fishing

Sta. Teresita Mayor Adordito Ginete said he was trying to prevent the total extinction of the *tawilis*.

"The problem is illegal fishing." Ginete said, "Our fishermen use nets that can catch even the small *tawilis*."

Gov. Hermilando Mandanas said a "Sagip Tawilis Movement" has been formed, involving the provincial and the local government units.

On March 6, a meeting was held among leaders of the movement, concerned government officials, fish cage operators and representatives of municipal agricultural offices of towns around the lake.

Mandanas ordered the revocation of business permits of big fish cages operators and financiers to protect the small fish cage owners, and the strict implementation of the campaign against illegal fishing.

Eddie Medina, 51, of Tawilisan said the *tawilis* has slowly vanished since 1970 when Mrs. Marcos and the then Bureau of Fisheries dumped thousands of carp fingerlings into the lake.

"The carps started eating the *tawilis,*" Medina said. "Even if the carps of Imelda grew as much as 10 kilos each, our *tawilis* catch became less and less."

What remained of the giant carps are now called *karpita* or small carps that are only as long as six inches.

Climate

Mercado said the changing climate and temperature of the Taal Lake have also contributed to the vanishing *tawilis*.

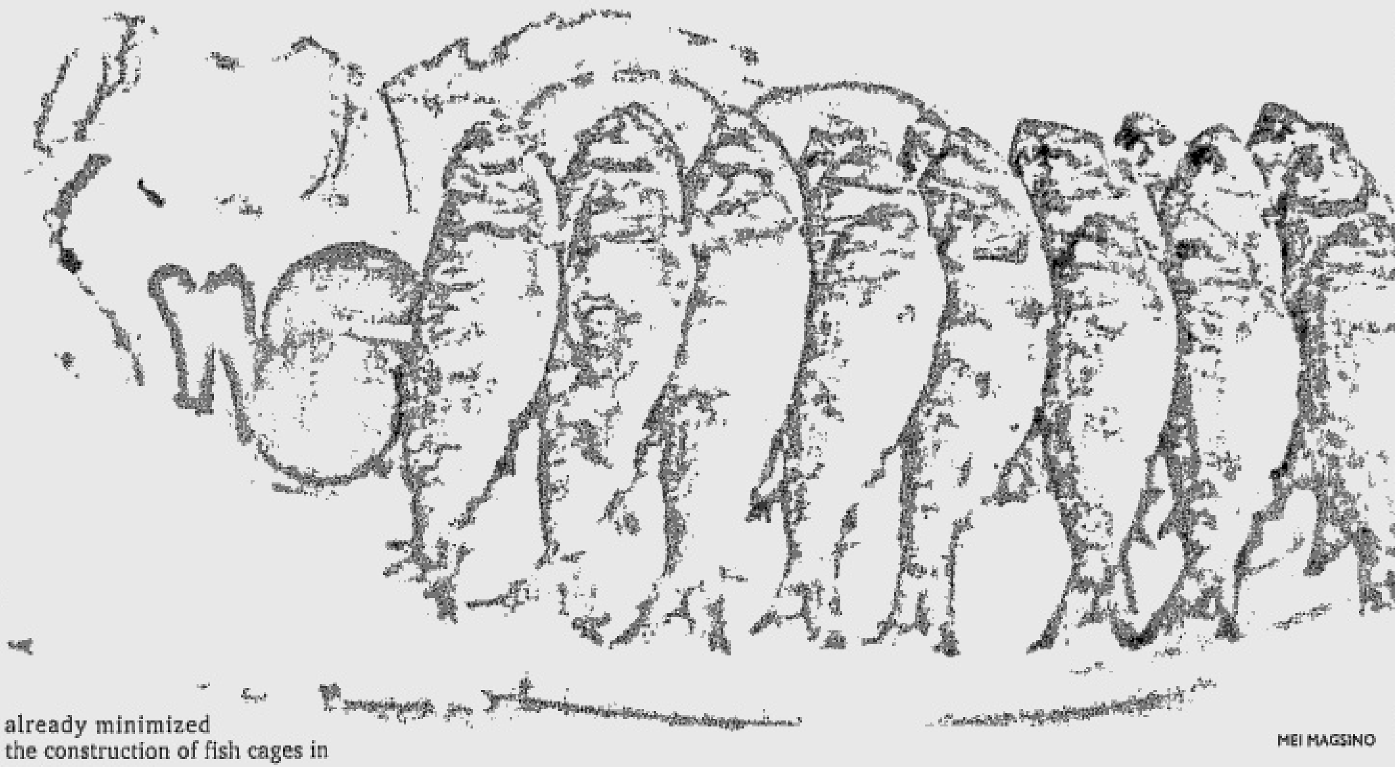
"When the water is cool on the surface and hot at the bottom, the *tawilis* can't survive the drastic change.

"Also, overpopulation in the fishing villages didn't allow for the *tawilis* to grow and breed," Mercado said.

The *tawilis*, unlike *tilapia* and *bangus*, cannot be artificially bred as they die immediately once they are out of the water.

"With the *tawilis*, we have to wait until they breed naturally. They cannot survive artificial breeding," Mercado said.

"For now, we have coordinated with the town mayors to implement our drive to stop illegal fishers and to rid the Pansipit River of fish cages. But for now, we have to wait. And it will be a long wait."



MEI MAGSINO

FRIED "tawilis" used to be served daily at the Rose and Grace Bulalo Restaurant in Sto. Tomas, Batangas. With the dwindling supply of the fish, the dish is now offered only twice a week.

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Roof rack w/ rails	✓	—	—	—
Alloy wheels	✓	—	✓	—
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Rear all coil suspension	✓	—	—	—
Swivelling 2nd row seat	✓	—	—	—
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₱200-B power shocker bared in Senate probe

From page A1

IPPs, represented the "ineligible" contracts absorbed by the IPP.

He said that while the 23 "eligiblecontracts" could be collected directly from consumers, the 12 "ineligible contracts" could only be absorbed by PSALM.

"And since PSALM has already taken over the assets of the National Power Corp., (the $3.975-billion ineligible contracts) will affect Napocor's cash flow and the taxpayers (will) eventually shoulder these obligations," Recto said.

In effect, Recto said, "taxpayers are subsidizing these ineligible IPP contracts."

Eight of the 12 IPPs with ineligible contracts are Bakun in Benguet/Ilocos Sur; Binga in Itogon, Benguet; Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan in Laguna; Casecnan in Nueva Ecija; Malaya in Pililla, Rizal; Mindanao II-Mt. Apo in Kidapawan, Cotabato; San Pascual in Batangas; and San Roque in Lower Agno River, Pangasinan.

"Something mysterious is happening here because we are all paying for this obligation. It's so big yet nothing is clear about it," said Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar, as he noted that it was not clear which among the 12 IPPs were operating or not.

Recto and Villar proposed that the oversupply of power in the country should be optimized by making the excess power available to consumers either at a premium or at lower prices.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña broached the idea of mothballing some Napocor plants to enhance savings while optimizing the capacities of IPPs, most of which are operating at less than their "minimum energy quantity."

Ramos summons

The P200-billion shocker only thrust former President Fidel Ramos even more squarely into the congressional limelight.

Senate finance committee chair John Osmeña, maintaining that some of the power contracts could have been "midnight deals" during Ramos' time, chided Cayetano, the energy panel chair, for not summoning Ramos to the hearings.

Cayetano replied that while he was not yet against summoning the former president to shed light on some power contracts entered into during his term, "it was not yet time to call (Ramos) because we have to settle the PPA row first."

Insisting that Ramos should immediately appear before the Senate, Osmeña filed Senate Resolution No. 310, asking the Senate committee on government corporations and public enterprises, which he chairs and which has jurisdiction over power-related agencies like Napocor and the ERC, to conduct another inquiry.

But Ramos yesterday blamed the current power rate problems on three factors, including former President Joseph Estrada's inept style of governance.

He distanced himself from any responsibility for the power contracts with IPP's. He said that his government policies on power then were triggered by his concern for economic recovery.

"I don't deal with 'technicals.' We have experts to do that. It is economic recovery that the President must worry about. That is (my) basic and paramount concern," he said.

But he said he welcomed the investigation into the allegedly onerous contracts.

"Let them investigate. Anyway there was due diligence when government entered into these agreements," Ramos said.

He said the country would not have these concerns if the positive economic projections during his term were not affected by the East Asian economic crisis in 1997, natural calamities and the lack of government continuity after Estrada became President.

"In 1998, the International Monetary Board gave us a $1.4 billion credit line. Early in the Estrada administration, they withdrew half of it, $700 million. When they tried to get the other $700 million, the IMF refused," Ramos said in a press briefing.

"Why? The IMF no longer had confidence in the government," he said of his successor's administration.

Ramos said that another thing worth looking into was what the Estrada administration did to address the country's electric transmission needs.

"The capacity is there and we have projects that assured that the electric power could be transmitted to the consumers. For instance, we have inter-connected the country's power grids in Luzon and the Visayas," he said.

"(But) what has he done for the transmission of electricity?" Ramos asked.

He did not commit himself to appearing before the Senate, however.

"Let us cross the bridge when we get to that point. Right now, the Senate committee on energy is still looking into possible amendments to the Energy and Power Industry Reform Act. It would only be after they determine these when a hearing could be set," he said.

No rush

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she would not rush the review of the IPP contracts despite the controversy. She said she wanted the review panel to carefully go after the "fine print" of all the contracts.

"If you're going to look at the fine print of 43 (IPP) contracts, it would really take a long time," she told Bombo Radyo yesterday.

In Pagbilao, Quezon, officials of at least eight towns in Luzon serving as hosts to the electric plants of the NPC and several IPPS converged Tuesday to warn Congress of forced power plant closures if the Department of Energy would not heed their demand.

Quezon Vice Gov. Jovito Talabong said if the responsible government agency would not listen to the demand of the host towns, "let us all move and act together and tell those power generating units to close shop because we will padlock the plant operation."

The meeting was attended by local government officials from Calaca and Santo Tomas, Batangas; Masinloc, Zambales; Limay, Bataan; Sual, Pangasinan; Tiwi, Albay and Mauban, Quezon. "The rule here is survival," Talabong stressed. ***With reports from Dona Pazzibugan; Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau; Philip Tubeza; Agnes Donato***

'Kuryente': Serge O got it all wrong

From page A1

Perez said the contract was awarded to the lowest bidder.

"Alstom won the bidding, contrary to the claims of (Sen. Sergio) Osmeña III that the contract was awarded to ABB of Germany," Perez said.

He said the bidding procedure for the supply, installation and commissioning of the interim market management system for the WESM followed stringent guidelines set by the World Bank. The funding for the project would come from the WB, he added.

Four companies pre-qualified to join the bidding, Perez said, but only Alstom and ABB were able to show a complete and working software system for the WESM.

"Alstom (offered) the lowest bid price of $4.5 million while ABB's was $5.4 million," he said.

On Monday, Osmeña called for a Senate inquiry into the allegedly rigged bidding, saying the WESM contract was awarded to ABB instead of Siemens. The German company had tendered a much lower bid, he said.

But Perez said the evaluation made by the technical working group of Transco and the DOE's independent consultant—Utility Consulting International (UCI)—showed that Alstom has the highest-rating evaluated bid score of the four proposals submitted.

Eight firms were originally invited to bid for the contract but only four submitted proposals: ABB, Alstom, Logica of the United Kingdom and Siemens. The actual base bids were: Siemens, $3.98 million; Alstom, $4.51 million; ABB, $5.49 million; and Logica, $6.54 million.

"Given the 65-35 percent weight for financial and technical evaluation of the proposals, Alstom gained the highest evaluated bid score of 0.97," Perez said. The other scores were: ABB, 0.89; Siemens, 0.87; and Logica, 0.68.

The WESM is expected to operate like a stock exchange for electricity generation not covered by contracts between producers and distributors.

Under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, an autonomous group market operator will administer the WESM in its first year of operation, after which an independent market operator will take over.

Perez said the WESM would pave the way for a fully deregulated electricity supply sector.

"Generators and distributors would be involved in very competitive trading in the WESM," Perez said. "We expect power rates to go down because of this."

House bill

In Congress, Napocor, the Manila Electric Co. and the Energy Regulatory Board expressed support for House Bill No. 4741. The bill seeks to amend the power reform act as well as provide immediate relief to consumers by recomputing the controversial purchased power adjustment charges

Rep. Alipio Badelles, House energy committee chair, said his panel was set to wrap up hearings on the bill today. Yesterday, Perez told the committee that the bill would be able to give immediate relief "to every (power) user in the Philippines."

He said the bill sought to allow the reduction of the PPA from P1.53 kwh to 40 centavos. The universal charge, which is supposed to cover the NPC's stranded contract costs, will be set at this amount.

The impact of the 40-centavo universal charge would "vary from region to region," Perez said, noting that the biggest drop would be in Luzon "with as much as a P1.13 reduction."

"This refinancing scheme will give immediate relief to consumers," he said. "We're buying time as we review and renegotiate the contracts of independent power producers." The IPP review committee is expected to complete its review of NPC's 35 active IPP contracts only by June 30.

Perez said the bill also sought to exempt power users consuming less than 75 kwh from paying the universal charge. He said 9 million households, most of which are in rural areas, would benefit from the exemption.

Before the hearing, Perez explained the circumstances of the WESM contract to reporters.

He clarified that Alstom won the contract because it gave the "lowest complying" bid among the four firms that bid for the software contract, which should be in use by September. The contract also was a one-time payment of P250 million and not P6 billion, Perez added.

The winning bidder must be able to "prove and demonstrate a software system that is functional and working in Manila within the week stipulated," Perez said.

Five groups reviewed the bids, he said, and "five times Alstom was able to pass through the eye of the needle." The five groups were the contracts and award committee of Transco; the technical working group (TWG) of the contracts and award committee; the TWG of the board of Transco; the board of Transco and the Department of Energy's consultant, UCI.

"All five groups unanimously came to the conclusion that Alstom (was) the winning bidder," Perez said. ***With a report from Rocky Nasareno***

Fr. Reuter: Sex . . .

From page A1

"I think they will look upon those who are good," he said.

Earlier, Bishop Socrates Villegas, spokesperson of the Archdiocese of Manila, said that "5 percent (of) the clergy are very good, holy and exemplary priests," and that "the greater majority, which comprises more than 90 percent, is struggling hard to be good."

But for now, Reuter admitted, the issue concerning the sex lives of certain priests could affect many Catholics. "Oh, yes, it will," he said. "It certainly will (because) the media are making the most of (the scandals)."

Still, "Filipinos are not dumb," he pointed out. "If you think the priests are bad, what about the politicians, for heaven's sake? . . . There are a lot of husbands who are unfaithful."

Reuter also said the crisis would help strengthen the priestly vocation.

"It can make priests (think), 'I better toe the line. I should be better,'" he said.

Reuter was interviewed at the launching of a program intended to prepare the Filipino youth for a gathering of young people from 130 countries for the Fourth World Meeting of Families on Jan. 23-26, with Pope John Paul II in attendance.

The world meeting was called because "the family is dissolving" and "the family and the youth are drifting away from God," Reuter said.

In launching the Bigkis Youth Festival 2002, Reuter said the Church hoped to launch a "concerted attack" to save the family as the basic unit of the Church and society.

"The family is under fire," he said, citing a recent study by the Ateneo de Manila showing that "fewer youths affiliate themselves with the Catholic Church compared to the national average among adults."

Salesian statement

One of the cases involving Filipino priests has to do with the claim for child support by a 33-year-old woman from a Salesian priest, Fr. Nicanor Sta. Maria.

The woman said Sta. Maria fathered her 9-year-old son, who has yet to acknowledge paternity of the boy. She also said her family had lost respect for the Salesian order because of what had happened, to the extent that her two siblings, a priest and a brother, left the congregation.

In a statement, Fr. Francis Gustilo, provincial superior of the Salesian Society of St. John Bosco, yesterday said of the woman's brothers: "For the record, one left the minor seminary even before the alleged incident; the priest-sibling asked for a leave of absence from the congregation for an entirely different reason."

Gustilo denied that he sought Sta. Maria's return from the United States only now, saying that "even before these allegations (saw) print, (Sta. Maria) was due to come home this September at the end of his three-year contract of chaplaincy in Florida."

He also said that contrary to the woman's statement that the priest was required to submit only a blood sample for DNA testing, "a certified and notarized DNA exam result of (Sta. Maria) was one of the options presented to the accuser."

"While we share with the pains of the accuser, we, nevertheless as a congregation, maintain our right to a good name that cannot just be dragged to public judgment on mere allegations," Gustilo said. "Together with the accuser we desire a speedy and just resolution of this issue."

Former Erap guard names brains in Baron's murder

From page A1

Brotherhood Association Inc., a fraternity of military officers reportedly affiliated with the rightist group Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM).

Mostrales' alleged accomplice, Jaime Centeno, 39, was arrested in Antipolo City on Tuesday night.

Their arrest came more than four months after Cervantes was shot dead in front of a convenience store in Las Piñas on the night of Dec. 31.

Four other suspects

Four other suspects, who were not identified, were being hunted down, police officials said.

Witnesses positively identified Mostrales as the gunman. Following his arrest, he disclosed the identities of the mastermind and of his other accomplices, Mendoza said.

"There are some voluntary disclosures naming the mastermind and some cohorts in the killing of Cervantes," the PNP chief said.

Mostrales has offered to testify against other parties involved in the killing of Cervantes, according to the PNP.

Mendoza said the brains and the other suspects could be arrested even before charges were filed against them.

Despite their arrest, the involvement of some retired and active police and military officers in Cervantes' killing would still be looked into, police officials said.

"That's part of the investigation, but as of now we can't reveal other details," Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Naktaf chief, said when asked if Superintendents Rafael Cardeño and Diosdado Valeroso were now off the hook.

Cardeño is reportedly the chair and Valeroso a member of YOU, a group involved in military coup attempts against then President Corazon Aquino in the late 1980s. YOU has since declared that it has abandoned plots to destabilize the government.

Several angles

Investigators had looked into several angles in Cervantes' killing, including his disclosure of an alleged coup plot against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo last December and alleged irregularities in the Land Transportation Office (LTO), all involving retired and active military and police officers.

Hours before he was shot, Cervantes delivered an intelligence report to Pastor "Boy" Saycon, head of the Council on Philippine Affairs, at the latter's residence in Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa City.

The report details the destabilization plot against the administration and contains the names of those involved in the plot, including Cardeño, Valeroso and retired Gen. Edgardo Abenina, former LTO chief. Cardeño had worked with Abenina at the LTO.

The three had denied any involvement in a coup plot.

Cervantes also turned over documents, which detailed bidding irregularities in the LTO, to Dante Jimenez, chair and president of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, before December last year.

The alleged anomalies were believed to have prompted Ms Macapagal to replace Abenina last Dec. 21.

Kidnapping

During the press conference, Ebdane said Naktaf was also looking into the involvement of Mostrales and other discharged Marine troopers in the kidnapping of Grace Ong and Jason Lim in October 2001, and Angela Pineda in November 2001.

Mostrales was charged with kidnapping in the Tarlac Metropolitan Trial Court. A warrant for his arrest was issued by Judge Luisito Adaoag.

Mostrales and Centeno have yet to be charged in connection with the killing of Cervantes.

Topless lads jailed

From page A1

aged 25, 27 and 19 and all residents of Barangay Nangka in Marikina, learned this lesson when local police arrested them. Although surprised, the three friends did not resist arrest.

Police said Wandasan, Sales and Natividad violated City Ordinance No. 74, which prohibits walking naked or half-naked on city streets.

They were each fined P40 and given a stern warning, as provided for by the law, before they were released.

According to police records, the friends enjoyed several bottles of beer in a house on J.P. Rizal Street in Barangay Nangka that afternoon before deciding to take a walk outside.

Policemen on board a patrol car happened to pass by and spotted the shirtless trio. PO3 Ramon Abad immediately got down from the car and did the honors.

At the police station, Wandasan, Sales and Natividad claimed ignorance of the prohibition against walking topless in public in Marikina.

They also argued that it was so hot last Monday that they decided to take off their shirts.

The temperature on that day, per the weather bureau, was 37.5 degrees Centigrade.

Judge's career move raised eyebrows

From page A1

government service, he flew to Manila to meet with then President Joseph Estrada in Malacañang behind closed doors. Sources said he was trying to obtain a consultancy arrangement with Estrada in connection with the recovery of Marcos assets.

When the meeting was made public, Estrada said he was merely thanking Cosandey for helping the government in the Marcos case.

Soon after Cosandey joined KPMG Switzerland, which established KPMG Private for the "consulting and care of wealthy individuals worldwide."

"The services of the new subsidiary firm include all aspects which can have an effect on someone's fortune, from legal and tax consulting to strategic investment consulting, as well as the establishment and management of corporate and trust structures worldwide, retirement planning, business succession and estate planning and art consulting," said KPMG Switzerland's website in October 1999.

At the time of Cosandey's transfer to KPMG Switzerland, there were rumors that KPMG handled Marcos money. The testimony of a Canadian-English lady barrister and solicitor before the French National Assembly in May 2000 confirmed the role of KPMG in hiding Marcos funds.

Partner

Cosandey was appointed partner and director of Forensic and Litigation Services at KPMG Switzerland.

"KPMG's Forensic and Litigation Services provide a broad range of global services to clients of all sizes in both the public and private sectors," KPMG's website said.

"Our in-depth experience ranges from conducting complex financial and non-financial investigations to the implementation and monitoring of vendor monitoring programs for organizations around the world," it said.

"We also provide fraud risk management, corporate intelligence, litigation support, dispute resolution, intellectual property and anti-money laundering services," it added.

According to Dr. David Chaikin, an Australian lawyer and anti-money laundering expert, Swiss corporate records show that Cosandey is associated with the following entities:

- KPMG Fides Peat in Zurich Ltd., which provides assurance services.
- KPMG Fides in Zurich Ltd., which provides fiduciary and auditing services.
- KPMG Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler SA in Zurich Ltd., which provides auditing services.

All this time, has Cosandey been helping hide Marcos deposits?

"Cosandey cannot deny that KPMG Fides is an offshoot of Fides Trust, which he knows was intimately involved in the laundering of the Marcos monies," wrote Dr. Chaikin in an executive summary to Malacañang.

Credit Suisse Trust has publicly stated that Fides Trust, which Swiss bank records showed had been actively involved in hiding Marcos Swiss deposits, had split into several companies including KPMG Fides, according to Chaikin.

Not a coincidence

He said it was not a coincidence that Cosandey moved to KPMG, which the new witness, Madame Z, had alleged to have knowledge of the transfer of Marcos funds.

Madame Z herself worked for KPMG Fides in Switzerland in 1996-1997 when she learned about the transfer of unfrozen Marcos funds from Credit Suisse in Switzerland to Liechtenstein just before a Swiss court issued a freeze order on Marcos deposits on March 24, 1986.

She was assigned to the Credit Suisse Group account. In the course of her work, she came to know about Limag AG, a Liechtenstein firm belonging to the Credit Suisse Group, to which a substantial amount of Marcos funds from Credit Suisse was transferred.

While working for KPMG, the witness found out that in 1986, Fides, the precursor of KPMG Fides and part of Credit Suisse, had "worked through the night to transfer the funds, approximately $400 million, to a 'black' Credit Suisse subsidiary, Limag AG, in Liechtenstein." This was done before the freeze order on Marcos assets went into effect.

In her initial proffer to the Philippine government, the witness said she came to know about a leak that the Swiss Federal Council was going to issue an order freezing the Marcos funds. She said the leak prompted Fides to transfer the Marcos funds.

Cosandey has a lot to answer for not only because of the witness' revelation but also because of his failure to question personalities linked to Credit Suisse and other firms involved in the movement of Marcos funds, according to Chaikin.

Tree climbers

The Australian lawyer said that Cosandey, who had called Filipinos "tree climbers" in his conversations with him in the early 1990s, had acted more to protect Swiss banks, than to help the Philippine government's interests.

"Under the Swiss domestic legislation on mutual assistance, the Federal Act on International Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 20 March 1981 (IMAC) and the Swiss Federal Decree (of 24 February 1982) on International Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (D-IMAC), coercive measures may be ordered in the execution of a mutual assistance request, including the hearing of witnesses, as well as the lifting of legal obligations to keep certain facts secret," Chaikin said in his letter to Malacañang said.

Cosandey was replaced as Zurich investigating magistrate and district attorney by Dieter Jann, who recently ordered the lifting of the freeze on three Marcos crony Swiss accounts amounting to $17 million.

Who will be GMA running mate in 2004?

From page A1

"The offer was due to the clamor of the Lakas leadership led by the Speaker for the President to assume the position," Noel Albano, spokesperson for De Venecia, said last night.

The Speaker himself could not be contacted at press time.

Role reversal

Then Senator Macapagal was the running mate of De Venecia in his failed presidential bid in the 1998 polls which elevated former actor Joseph Estrada to the presidency.

In a reversal of roles, Ms Macapagal is now the country's President and is taking over the premier slot in De Venecia's party.

"Speaker De Venecia is happy to play a supporting role to President Macapagal," Rufino said.

At the Senate, the President's partymates welcomed her decision as this would "put to rest all speculation that she intends to put up her own political party."

"It settles once and for all the question about GMA and Lakas. At least, she's on top of the party now and she now has the authority and the position, not just as President, but also as the leader of the ruling party," said Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda.

This was seconded by Sen. Juan Flavier who said that it "clears up the air that she might set up her own political party" in time for the 2004 national elections.

Sen. Renato Cayetano, Lakas vice chair for Luzon, noted that it was actually part of "tradition" that the President should assume the chairmanship of the majority political party.

"We'll be more united now in the implementation of programs for our people," he said.

President Fidel Ramos, who can't shake off suspicions that he plans a return to Malacañang, is Lakas' chair emeritus.

Rufino noted that Ms Macapagal has been an active party member since she joined Lakas in 1998 following her election as the country's Vice President.

"We are all excited that she will be taking a more active role in the party," Rufino said. "All of us believe that she is the best person to lead the party."

No one else

Rufino, who is the President's adviser for political affairs, said that he does not see any other leader who can carry the Lakas banner in 2004 except for Ms Macapagal.

"I look at the political landscape and I see there is only one person, President Macapagal," Rufino said. "We've always had a champion and we had it in her."

President Macapagal has consistently denied plans to seek a full six-year term in 2004 and no mention of this made during the interview yesterday.

Aware of the President's aversion for public discussions of her political plans, Rufino said that Ms Macapagal and the ruling party "are focused on work and the implementation of the government's pro-poor programs."

"Let's not speculate too much on the future," Rufino said. "Let's just say that if the opposition claims it has a champion for 2004, we have ours too."

Days numbered

But she's no champion for militant groups.

"Politically speaking, Gloria's political days are numbered. Technically. She may or may not survive the brewing political storm on or before 2004. If she survives, she or her chosen one would not escape the electorate's rousing rejection in the 2004 presidential elections," said Pamalakaya national chair Rodolfo Sambajon.

On May 1, Labor Day militant labor groups led by Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) launched the campaign to oust President Macapagal on or before 2004. Palace officials had quickly downplayed the movement saying it would die down.

"When Palace officials said the oust-Gloria call was just good for a one day political hype somebody lied," said a statement attributed to the militant fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya).

Pamalakaya echoed calls for the removal of President Macapagal for betraying public trust and her bizarre display of political arrogance and insensitivity to the plight of poor Filipinos. "Enough is enough! Enough of Gloria!" the group stressed.

Sambajon said the move to isolate Ms Macapagal from the broadest section of the populace is gaining a foothold because of the regime's failure to address a number of people's grievances including but not limited to the controversial purchased power adjustment (PPA), the perpetual increases in water rates and the unstoppable hikes in the price of petroleum products. ***With reports from Rocky Nazareno and Christine Avendaño***

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Special Registration
for
Members of the Kalipunan
ng Kabataan
15 years old to less than 18 years old on July 15, 2002 or those born on any day from ***July 16, 1984*** *to* ***July 15, 1987***

MAY 20-21, 2002
Monday & Tuesday
8:00 am-5:00 pm
before the **Registration Committee** at the designated **Barangay Hall or Public School or other Public Building** located in your Barangay

Gloria is the new poster . . .

From page A1

"And this Mambuaya River in Cagayan de Oro is a great place to do whitewater rafting," she said.

The weekend golfer admitted that she prayed before taking on the rapids, "because you can fall off the boat."

For her wild ride, she was presented a certificate of achievement by Rupert Domingo, operator of the whitewater rafting facility.

Domingo earlier briefed her on the safety measures involved in the sport.

Peace, beauty

The President said she was personally engaging in these sports activities because "I want the whole world to see the peace and beauty of several areas in the Philippines."

Tourist arrivals in the country have been falling amid high-profile kidnappings in the South by the Abu Sayyaf, which the US government has linked to the al-Qaida terror network of Osama bin Laden.

A total of 1.698 million tourists visited the Philippines last year, down 7.8 percent from the previous year. ***With an AFP report***

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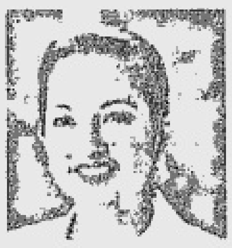
PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

Guest of Honor

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

SANKYO SEIKI (PHILIPPINES) MANUFACTURING CORPORATION

Subic Technopark, Subic Bay Freeport Zone
May 16; Thursday, 3:30 p.m.
(Guests are welcome to come early to visit the plant premises)
Press conference will follow after the inaugural



I EXTEND my cordial greetings to the management and staff of Sankyo Seiki on the Inaugural Ceremony of the Sankyo Seiki (Philippines) Factory Building Complex at the Subic Technopark, Subic Freeport Zone.

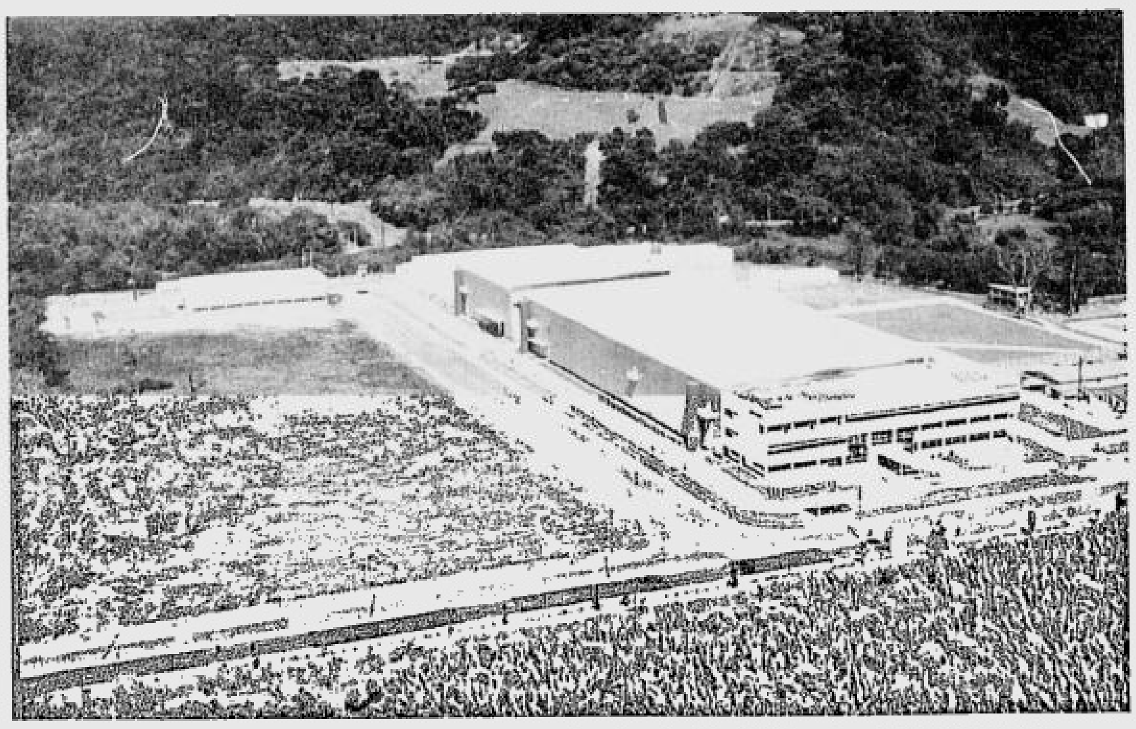
Your substantial investment is vital to our country's economic growth and to our aspiration for sustainable development. The time, money and effort that you invested in this highly technical project is an eloquent gesture of your confidence in the economic, social and political stability of our country. It is also a recognition of the competence, reliability and diligence of the Filipino managers, engineers, technical and skilled workers.

I therefore, welcome and greatly appreciate the significant presence in the Philippines of Sankyo Seiki, a company of worldwide stature in the parts manufacturing field.

Let us continue to work together in nation building to bring to fruition our national aspiration for sustained development, prosperity and a better quality of life for the Filipino people.

Congratulations and MABUHAY!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines



The above is the factory building complex of Sankyo Seiki (Philippines), "FLAGSHIP" project of Sankyo Seiki's FDB (Fluid Dynamic Bearing) for the manufacture of micro-motors for hard disk drive and other electronic appliances and devices.

LAND AREA : 6.6 Hectares
BUILDING AREA : 37,000 sq. m.
EMPLOYEES : 2,000 by end 2002; 8,000 when fully operational
EXPORT VOLUME : About US$300 million per year when fully operational

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Playoffs Conference Semifinals – Charlotte Hornets vs New Jersey Nets, Game 5 at 10 p.m. on NBN 4

GOLF: PGA Verizon Byron Nelson Classic, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r), Highlights at 5:30 p.m. on Star Sports

TENNIS: Masters Series (Hamburg), Early Round Coverage Day #2 at 9 a.m. (r), Day #3 at 11:30 p.m.

PBA SAMSUNG FINALS

Streaking Alaska eyes 3rd straight win

GAME TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
6:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska

Game 1—Alaska d. Purefoods, 79-73
Game 2—Alaska d. Purefoods, 106-102 (2 OTs)

By June Navarro

ALASKA is wary that Purefoods can storm back from two games down in their best-of-seven championship series.

So the Aces will try everything to grab a 3-0 lead over the Hotdogs in Game 3 of the PBA Samsung Governors Cup Finals tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

"One who can come back from a 15-point deficit like what Purefoods did, can come back in the series even if they are down 0-2," said Alaska coach Tim Cone after beating the Hotdogs, 106-102, in double overtime on Tuesday.

Getting the needed points from Derrick Brown and Kerby Raymundo, the Hotdogs battled back from 15 points down in the fourth quarter and forced two extension periods before the Aces imposed themselves.

"Definitely, Purefoods will make some adjustments and come back right at us," added Cone, who stands two victories away from achieving his 11th title.

But to achieve an almost improbable turnaround, Purefoods interim coach Ryan Gregorio and his troops must reverse history that shows no team has ever come back from a 0-2 deficit in the last 20 years.

Toyota did it in 1982, rebounding from the grave to beat San Miguel Beer, during the league's first-ever best-of-seven championship fight.

Another setback for Gregorio's wards in the 6:30 p.m. meeting would further compound the Hotdogs' woes as no team has won a series coming from a 0-3 pit in the PBA's 27-year history.

The Aces beat the Hotdogs in the Finals of the 1996 All-Filipino Cup, 1997 Governors Cup, 2000 All-Filipino Cup, all done in devastating fashion.

"But don't count them (Hotdogs) out. They are the comeback kids of the conference and anything is still possible," said Cone.

AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

DON Allado (left) of Alaska showing true grit in Game 2.

Clay, Flowers pace MBA 'stats' leaders

THE FIL-AM duo of Chris Clay and Jeffrey Flowers headline the Metropolitan Basketball Association statistics leaders after the elimination round of the First Conference. Teammates at the Laguna Lakers from 2000 to 2001, the duo went their separate ways this season and the move has done wonders for their careers.

Clay signed up with the Osaka Pangasinan Waves and Flowers the expansion Olongapo Volunteers.

Clay again reaffirmed his status as the MBA's current scoring king with an average of 27.3 points per game. The 6-foot-8 Flowers is not far behind at 24.4 ppg.

Despite sitting out four games to return to the United States and attend to his ailing father, 1999 scoring leader Alex Compton of the LBC Batangas Blades is third at 19.7 ppg.

Compton's teammate Jeff Sanders stepped up in his absence resulting in a fourth-quarter average of 19.1 ppg. Bruce Dacia of the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems rounds out the top five with 18.0 ppg.

Flowers is truly making a strong case for this season's MVP honors by topping the rebounding race with 15.5 rebounds per game.

Trailing him is 2001 MVP Eddie Laure of the Blades with 12.4 rpg. Rommel Adducul of the Waves and Dave Bautista of the Pampanga Stars are the only other players averaging over 10 boards at 11.5 and 10.3 rpg.

In addition, Flowers, Laure and Adducul are the only players averaging double-doubles.

Rookie Eugene Tan of the Volunteers is the league's top passer with 5.3 assists per game (apg). Tan bested veteran playmakers Compton (5.0 apg) and Kalani Ferreria of the Waves (4.8 apg).

Newcomer Jercules Tangkay of the Gems is tops in steals with 2.8 steals per game (spg). Tan is definitely showing that he is an effective point guard with 2.5 spg. Compton is also averaging 2.5 spg but he has played in lesser games than Tan.

Adducul is not ready to give up his billing as the MBA's prime big man by ruling the blocks category with 2.4 blocks per game (bpg). Providing a serious challenge is rookie sensation Billy Mamaril of the Professional Davao Eagles at 1.9 bpg. At third is John Ferriols of the RCPI Negros Slashers with 1.3 bpg.

Leongson, Saulog, Rubi capture motocross titles

CEBU City—The WG & A-Hartebeest Super Motocross Series is turning out to be another private party for the multi-titled Shell-Yamaha Motocross team.

Ernie Leongson ruled the pro open, Jovie Saulog topped the pro 125, Pepo Rubi dominated the expert and Sam Tamayo swept the open production, power enduro and beginner production in another smashing performance that installed Shell-Yamaha as the "team to beat this year."

Leongson, who is still fresh from winning the prestigious Guam Smokin Wheel Supercross Championships in Guam last month, asserted his superiority to rule the centerpiece pro open category before a wildly cheering crowd of 70,000.

Coseteng guns for 4th consecutive crown

THE CALTEX-HAVOLINE team hopes to extend its winning streak in Batangas as lead driver Jody Coseteng starts his bid for a fourth straight crown in the Philippine National Touring Car Championship on May 18-19 at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Barangay Maligaya, Rosario, Batangas.

Coseteng, carrying the colors of Caltex-Globe Telecom, bagged the crown from 1999 to 2001. A "four-peat" would install him as one of the best drivers in recent Philippine car racing history.

"I'm looking forward to it," said Coseteng. "To win the Driver of the Year for the fourth straight year would be a big honor."

The Philippine National Touring Car Championship, organized by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association and sanctioned by the Automotive association of the Philippines (AAP), is the most prestigious car racing event in the country.

Coseteng expects tougher challenge for the Caltex-Havoline Team and partners Globe Telecom, and Red Horse with the presence of Jojo Silverio who's fresh from a successful Asian Formula 3 stint in Zhuhai, China plus equally talented drivers Louie and Kookie Ramirez. Driving in tandem with Coseteng is Caltex Havoline-Beefeater's Nilo Pazcoguin.

SPORTSWATCH

Daredevils Talisay favorites May 17-18

DAREDEVIL riders are again favored to prevail in the third leg of the WG&A Superferry National Motocross Series 2002 in Talisay City, Negros Occidental at the Ayala North Point on May 17 and 18. Shell-Yamaha riders, led by Pro Open leader Jovie Leongson and Pro 125 pacesetter Jovie Saulog, are again expected to dominate in the absence of injured Caltex-Revtex-KTM star Glenn Aguilar, who broke his back in the Mandaue City 2nd leg. Sponsored by WG&A Superferry, with the support of Cebu Ferries, WG&A Freight, ZIP, WG&A Superferry Bacolod Branch, Bench, No Fear, Nature's Spring Bottled Water and ITTI Shoes, the 3rd leg is also made possible by Talisay Mayor Anthony V. Lizares and Councilor Neil Lizares.

Journalists bag Clorets slots

THE NEWS writers proved they could be newsmakers, too, after three of their kind made it to the top 10 of the third and final elimination leg and into the finals of the 2002 Clorets Urban Hunt. Jose Ramon Lorenzo, a 39-year-old sportswriter who rose to fame in the IQ Seven days, teamed up with perhaps the most logical partner in the urban adventure race, his 38-year-old brother-in-law Ranilo Dacoy, a one-time taxi driver and tourist guide, and topped Saturday's elimination leg with practically plenty to spare. The duo who ran under the team Blitz, took four hours and 23 minutes in topping the final qualifying leg, beating by seven minutes the Wanderers of Astro Padilla and Alendry Lizarondo.

Buhain Mandaluyong guest of honor

CHAIR Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission will lead the guests of honor when the 2nd Benhur Abalos Cup kicks off tomorrow at 6 p.m. at the city gymnasium. Four thousand athletes from the city's 27 barangays will vie for 612 medals in 12 events, the city's biggest inter-barangay sports event this year. The 12 events are basketball, volleyball, dart, chess, billiard, table tennis, lawn tennis, badminton, bowling, karatedo, swimming and track and field.

Stewart: Schumacher should have refused victory

SCHUMACHER

LONDON —Michael Schumacher should have refused to pass teammate Rubens Barrichello in his manipulated first-place finish at the Austrian Grand Prix, according to former three-time world champion Jackie Stewart.

FIA could strip Ferrari of points or ban the team or drivers. But Stewart urged FIA not to impose any ban because it would hurt the British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

Barrichello, who had led the entire race Sunday, obeyed team orders and slowed down in the final straight to let Schumacher take the victory.

The finish led to a barrage of criticism and prompted FIA, the governing body of Formula One, to summon Ferrari officials and the two drivers to a special hearing in Paris on June 26.

Stewart said Schumacher should have rejected the team orders.

"Michael could easily have disregarded the instruction," he told BBC radio. "He has more power in Ferrari than any single man I have ever known in all of my career in motorsport as a watcher of Ferrari.

"It could have been altered by Michael's personal initiative, he could have said it on the radio."

Stewart said he was "very, very disappointed" and "shocked" by the fixed Ferrari finish.

"I really did believe Rubens was going to win the race, and justly so," he said. "I just thought it was a complete anti-climax to what was actually an exciting Grand Prix."

Stewart also criticized Schumacher for his actions at the post-race podium ceremony, when he pushed Barrichello to the winner's step and gave him the trophy.

"This really was a mistake and I think it was a bit of pantomime in which everyone felt embarrassed about," Stewart said. "Rubens was pushed into a position he did not want to be in." ***AP***

Active Chess event slated

CHESS teams from municipalities, schools and universities, government agencies, private companies, non-government organizations and chess clubs throughout the country will vie for honors, medals, trophies on May 25-26 at SM Manila. Also at stake is a cash pot of P63,000.

The Inter-Commercial Active Chess Team Championship will allow a team to field in one titled player with an average rating of 2100.

Sports Activities Inc. (SAI) is organizing the seven-round Swiss system tournament as part of its continuing program on youth and sports development for Filipinos.

For other details, call 872-7820.

Ridge tilt to use Norman course

THE FRONT nine of the Greg Norman course will link up with the back nine of the Aoki layout for the monthly members tournament on May 18 at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen.Trias, Cavite.

Tee-off is shotgun style at 8 a.m.

The Norman side of the country's biggest golf complex is expected to yield low scores for the participants due to its friendly character.

Callaway, through its local distributor Electrobus Consolidated Inc., will sponsor the 18-hole tourney which is expected to attract more than a hundred,members of the Eagle Ridge.

Callaway will donate special prizes for the tournament and the raffle. Format is gross play after classification in Classes A, B and C.

The Norman layout was opened on May 1. The clubhouse is scheduled to open on May 25.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, the Philippine boys' team beat Malaysia, 91-60, to retain its sixth Asean juniors basketball crown at the University of Baguio.

Circumnavigating the globe

COMMENTARY

by Vic Vic Villavicencio

SOME people climb mountains. Others explore the ocean's depths. Then there are those who get their highs from riding towering waves, or testing their bodies and mental skills against the often unpredictable moods of the sea. Sportsmen all.

For sportsman Ernesto "Judes" Echauz, there was racing on cars where he distinguished himself as a smart navigator. He also made his mark in sport fishing, setting some local records, and steering the country's premier fishing association, the then Philippine Game Fishing Association to what is now the Philippine Game Fishing Foundation, with its own base and facilities in Santa Ana, Cagayan, during his terms as its president.

His next contributions in the country's sporting world now centers on sailing—where his racing and sport fishing skills are also somehow involved.

Sailing enthusiast or not, the reader may be aware of a racing yacht called Subic Centennial. This 46-footer syndicated sailing yacht, with Judes Echauz as its skipper, has won countless major sailing events in Asia, among them the Raja Muda Regatta in Malaysia, the King's Cup in Phuket, Thailand; the Singapore Straits Regatta, or the South East Asia Perpetual Cup Series Lipton Challenge Cup for 1997-1998. The Subic Centennial also won the China Sea Race in 1998, the President's Cup Regatta in the Philippines for 1999 and 2000, and the China Sea Inshore series in Subic. It was overall champion under international handicap of the Manila Yacht Club the past three years.

For Judes Echauz, there had to be more worlds to conquer. And so was born the idea of circumnavigating the globe on the Subic Centennial.

And so it was on Jan. 3, 2002, the Subic Centennial set sail out of Subic Bay Yacht Club on an intended 20,000-mile non-stop journey that would take about four months, manned by a seven-man, all-Filipino crew.

A local sailing record was set for a total distance 542 nautical miles navigated in 3 days and 2 hours at an average speed of 7.35 knots, from Subic to the exit point south of Siargao Island.

It was also a Philippine sailing record for the Subic Centennial to have covered 4,100 nautical miles to Suva, Fiji in 28 days and 16 hours at an average speed of 6 knots.

Expected treacherous weather in Cape Horn which was along the route forced the team to make a hard decision. They would just have to make a hard decision. They would just have to make another attempt in early November this year so that they would be in the Cape Horn seas at the height of summer when conditions would be more favorable to score a success.

Of one thing we are certain, if there is a Filipino sailing yacht, and a Filipino skipper, that will successfully circumnavigate the globe, it will be the Subic Centennial, skippered by Judes Echauz, daring and perfectionist sportsman and president of Standard Insurance Company.

PAMPANGA CHESSFEST

Governor Lito Lapid of Pampanga (left) and Grandmaster Eugene Torre do the ceremonial moves to launch the National Inter-Provincial Chess Team Championship on June 17-23 in San Fernando, Pampanga. Watching (standing, from left) are Pampanga board member Robert David, NCFP secretary general Samuel D. Estimo and NCFP executive director Gene Poliarco.

RUSSIA'S Anna Kournikova returns a backhand shot to Lilia Osterloh of the US during their match at the Italian Open in Rome on Tuesday. Osterloh replaced Venus Williams who retired from the tournament due to injury. Kournikova won, 6-1, 4-6, 6-1. REUTERS

KOURNIKOVA 'PHOTOS'

Penthouse owner testifies

NEW YORK—Penthouse magazine publisher Bob Guccione testified Tuesday that after six days of careful examination, he decided to publish images of a topless blonde on the beach as those of tennis star Anna Kournikova.

The resulting error triggered a $10-million lawsuit brought in Manhattan Federal Court by Judith Soltesz-Benetton, wife of Formula One race driver and scion of the Benetton clothing firm Rocco Benetton, who claims the images are of her.

The video, taken on Miami's South Beach, were taken by a St. Louis, Missouri jewelry salesman with a hobby of shooting candid videos unobserved and who sold them to Guccione's magazine.

Guccione, the controversial publisher of the men's magazine, testified that he concluded the woman in the video was Kournikova, who, like Soltesz-Benetton, is blonde, wears her hair in a ponytail, likes silver-metal watches and extends her pinkie while holding her hand outstretched.

Soltesz-Benetton, 28, who is originally from New Jersey but now resides in Italy, seeks $10-million, charging the magazine recklessly published pictures of her while claiming they were of Kournikova.

She is also asking the court to recall any outstanding copies of the 1.2 million copies of the June issue of the magazine from US newsstands.

US District Court Judge Denny Chin has already ordered Penthouse to halt distribution of the issue and yank the photos from its website.

Kournikova has filed her own suit against Penthouse in California.

During a full day of testimony, Frank Ramaesiri, the photographer, cried on the stand Tuesday after Judge Chin asked him if and when he realized his mistake. *AFP*

Capriati prevails

JENNIFER Capriati ended a nine-year Roman losing streak in the $1.24-million WTA Tennis Masters Series tournament here Tuesday, thrashing Slovenian qualifier Maja Matevzic 6-2, 6-1 in a second-round match.

In Hamburg, Germany, triple French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten survived a stiff challenge from Nicolas Kiefer on Tuesday as he moved into the second round of the Hamburg Masters Series, winning 6-4, 7-5.

Letran, Benilde netters triumph

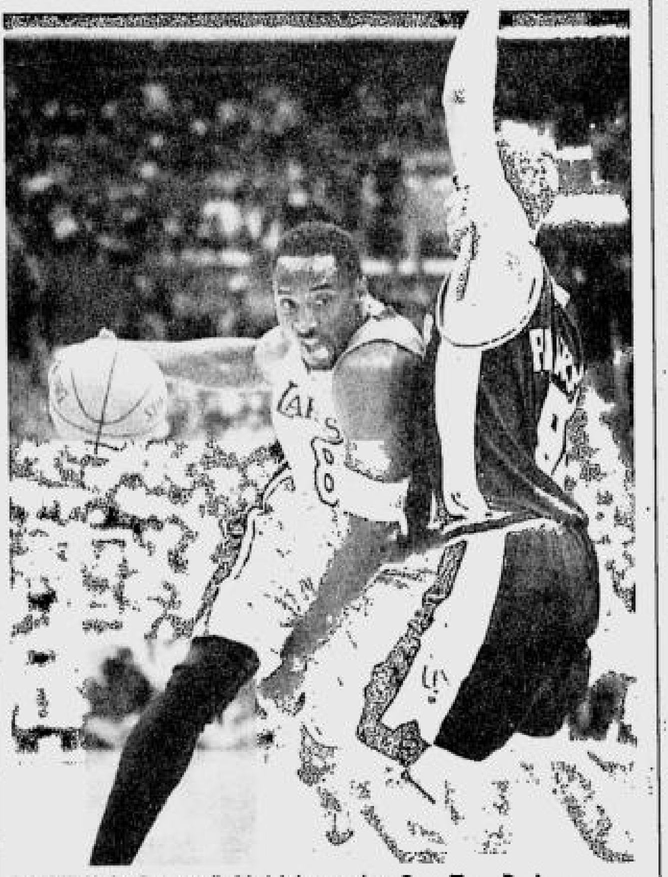
MANDAUE CITY—Letran's Jomar Arcilla and College of St. Benilde's Ian de Guzman downed separate rivals last Tuesday in the qualifying round of the Mandaue Men's Open at the Mandaue Tennis Club here.

Arcilla outclassed Vedasta Magpantay, 6-1, 6-2, to advance in the main draw where he will meet La Salle's Pop Sabandon.

De Guzman, on the other hand, beat Rolando Cinco, 6-4, 6-3, to advance against Von Ruelan.

In other matches, Bo Alburo struggled past Allan Alfafara, 6-1, 2-6, 6-3, to advance against third seed and Coca-Cola Open champion Joseph Victorino while Melvin Sy rallied past Tabby Borromeo, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, to advance against fourth seed Michael Mora III.

Also gaining main draw slots were Menandro Econg, Janji and Arlou Soquino, and Chiemel Mantua.



LAKER Kobe Bryant (left) driving against Spur Tony Parker. AFP

Lakers advance vs Kings

LOS ANGELES—Kobe Bryant scored 10 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter, sparking the Los Angeles Lakers past San Antonio 93-87 Tuesday, advancing the defending National Basketball Association champions to the playoff semi-finals.

Shaquille O'Neal contributed 21 points and 11 rebounds while Bryant added eight rebounds and five assists for the Lakers, who eliminated the Spurs 4-1 in the best-of-seven second round series.

Bryant scored six points in a 9-2 run to highlight his furious fourth quarter and put down a late rally bid by the Spurs.

The Lakers open the Western Conference finals Saturday (Sunday in Manila) at regular season champion Sacramento, which figures to be the toughest test yet in the Lakers' bid to win a third consecutive NBA crown.

Celtics make it

For the first time since Larry Bird's heyday 14 years ago, the Boston Celtics are in the NBA semifinals.

Paul Pierce scored 18 points, Kenny Anderson added 17 points and six assists and Antoine Walker contributed 16 points and 13 rebounds in Boston's 90-81 triumph over Detroit that advanced the Celtics to the Eastern Conference finals. *AP*

NBA Playoffs 2002

Eastern Conference Schedule

New Jersey vs Charlotte

Game 5-(Thurs) May 16	Charlotte at New Jersey	8 a.m. (Mla. Time)
*Game 6-(Sat) May 18	New Jersey at Charlotte	8 a.m.
*Game 7-(Mon) May 20	Charlotte at New Jersey	to be determined

* If necessary

Western Conference Finals Schedule

Sacramento vs LA Lakers

Game 1-(Sun) May 19	LA at Sacramento	6:30 a.m. (Mla. Time)
Game 2-(Tues) May 21	LA at Sacramento	9:30 a.m.
Game 3-(Sat) May 25	Sacramento at LA	9 a.m.
Game 4-(Mon) May 27	Sacramento at LA	5:30 a.m.
*Game 5-(Wed) May 29	LA at Sacramento	9 a.m.
*Game 6-(Sat) June 1	Sacramento at LA	tbd
*Game 7-(Mon) June 3	LA at Sacramento	tbd

* If necessary

Blu routs RP Youth; Shark nips Montaña

GAMES TOMORROW
(Pasig Sports Center)
4 p.m.—Blu vs Ana Freezer
6 p.m.—Ateneo vs Kutitap

BLU Detergent blasted RP Youth-Burlington, 107-74, to ensure its entry into the semifinals of the 2002 PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Francis Machica drilled in 12 of his 22 points in the final quarter as the Detergent Kings annexed their sixth win in 10 games.

The Nationals are winless in eight games, but their PBL stint was enough to provide them with the experience they needed in their coming international campaigns.

With the win, the Detergent Kings averted complications that could result in a possible ouster from the semifinals. The only problem they'll possibly face is a three-way tie for second to fourth places with Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation and Kutitap Toothpaste if Blu wins over Ana Freezers tomorrow.

RP Youth-Burlington slightly dominated the boards, 36-35, but committed 25 turnovers, which Blu translated into 31 points.

In another game, Shark Energy turned back Montaña, 83-80, in overtime to clinch at least a playoff berth. Shark finished at 6-5, while Montaña wound up at 2-9.

ICTSI-La Salle and John O Juzz are still playing as of presstime.

With a report from Emil Cabrera

The scores:

SHARK 83— Junio 15, Ybañez 12, Castro 11, Sotto 11, Vergara 10, Caceres 9, Basilides 6, Bravo 4, Ortega 3, Cole 2.

MONTAÑA 80—Alfad 25, Misola 12, Mesina 11, Salvacion 9, Coronel 9, Lim 5, Macapagal 4, Sinco 4, Falcasantos 1, Marucot 0, Tolentino 0.

Quarters: 16-19, 41-41, 53-57, 71-71, 83-80 OT.

Bacolod bet leads winners

BACOLOD'S Gerad Bergavera defeated Jeffrey Calcita, 7-5, 7-5, yesterday to lead the first-round winners in the boys' 14-under division of the Head-Penn Metro Age-Group Tennis Championships at the new Rizal Racket Club in Pasig City.

Also advancing were Murrell brothers James and Jonathan, Patrick Arevalo, Ogie Reynoso and Leyan Moncera.

In the boys' 18-under class, San Beda's Nestor Celestino downed Gino Bautista, 6-3, 7-5, and La Salle-Greenhills' Jandrick de Castro outclassed Paul Navarro, 6-1, 6-0, to advance in the next round.

First-round winners in the girls' 12-under category were Nikki Manalo, Lynda Marie Santos, Christina Abrot, Christine Usman, Macy Serrano, Catherine Ortega, Trudy Amoranto and Macy Solon.

RACING TIPS

At Santa Ana
By Mr. 999

Race1—1. Wings of Gold 2. Air Love 3. Full Blast/ Ground Fighter
Race2—1. Main Street 2. Aly Sam 3. Loose Cannon
Race3—1. Haz It All 2. Prickly Heat 3. Parola Sunrise
Race4—1. Society Girl 2. Aayu's Glory 3. Strong Contender 4. Bukambibig 5. Free rein
Race5—1. Maayo Kaayo/ Dandansoy 2. Sweep Away 3. First of All
Race6—1. Power Corrupts 2. Adam's Call 3. Opening Prospect 4. Legitimo 5. Top Jay
Race7—1. Sabik 2. Silver Eagle 3. The Mailman 4. Thunder Strike 5. Noble Principality
Race8—1. Sacred Hall 2. Gold Honors 3. Winning Rose 4. Jetli 5. Labuyo
Race9—1. Classic Star 2. Brenda Starr 3. Danielle's Angel 4. King Cobra 5. Triple Joy 6. Grace and Fortune

Tough task for 'War'

BALTIMORE, Maryland—As the lineup settles for Saturday's 127th Preakness, the second leg of American horse racing's Triple Crown, it is clear War Emblem will be unable to repeat his Kentucky Derby winning strategy.

War Emblem won by four lengths at Churchill Downs on May 4, leading from wire-to-wire by taking the field out slow and saving his best for last.

But trainer Bob Baffert's triumphant bay colt will face a field expected to include eight new faces and three Derby rival holdovers — all of them wise to War Emblem's winning ways and set to make an auto-race starting dash. *AFP*

Danding entries favored in Ucap cockfest today

WITH identical three victories each, Bumble Bee Balbina of former ambassador Danding Cojuangco and What A Guy GF-Ban OPMI of Arnold Mendoza lead the favorites in today's "12th Ucap 7-Cock Derby" championship round at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Derby hosts are lawyer Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza and Boy de Roca while sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Wash-out Shampoo of Lakpue Drug.

Close on the leaders' heels, with 2.5 points, are Mayor Gerry "Boy" Espina (AT Alkalde Domintor) and sportsman Raymond Velayo (Arnis Master). With two victories are Concrete Breaker, R and B Farm I, Guts and Glory, Sagupaan Hammer, Fatman Mikko, Winning Time DVH Jobo, Clear Cut Jima Jcap, BJ Greenwood I and Firebird MB.

Meanwhile, the Mandaluyong Coliseum management announced that entrance fee to the upcoming Ucap Matchmakers 4-cock derby this Saturday, May 18, has been pegged at P300 (admission) and P500 (ringside).

Submission of weights to this derby is tomorrow, Friday, May 17, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Derby hosts are Goody Lamboloto and Ariel Garovillo.

The 2002 Mandaluyong International 9-Cock Derby, to be hosted by OPMI president Vic Yu and Ramon Mansenares, is slated on June 4, 6 and 8.

SPORTSWATCH

Special 4-cock derby slated

THE PASAY City Cockpit, now recognized as the busiest cockfighting center in Metro Manila, presents another special 4-cock derby tomorrow, Friday, May 17, with a cash prize of P300,000 awaiting the winners. To host the derby are partners Dante Eustaquio and Mon Torres. Entry fee is P10,000. Submission of weights is tomorrow, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. For other inquiries, please contact 816-6750, 843-1746 and 843-1890. Also slated at PCC are the following 4-cock events on May 24 (Ococ Manuel Sy and Tj Tanlaico Jr.), May 31 (Cito Manansala and Butchoy Olano), June 7 (Dindo Bales and Anel Cordura) and June 14 (Jake Macasaet). Pasay Cockpit's 15th Anniversay 5-Cock Derby is set on July 18 and 20.

Golf-For-A-Cause at Intramuros

GRAFT-FREE Philippines Foundation Inc. will stage the "VP Guingona Cup" (Golf-Fo-A-Cause) tomorrow at Club Intramuros to raise funds for its various projects. Tee-off time is from 6:30-10 in the morning. Vice President Teofiosto Guingona Jr. will grace the awarding ceremony at 2 p.m. of the same day. For more information, call Rhoda at 8150065/8189448 or Candy at 09163281806.

GETTING FIT

Vanessa Garcia (center) is all smiles with her partners in the recent two-day Nike Women Fit N' Fab event that included tae-bo, pilates, aquaerobics, yoga and spinning, among others. From left are Luiji Lardizabal, Chinggay Andrada, Auty Villarama, Rey San Agustin, Colo Ventosa, Tweety de Leon-Gonzalez and Arsi Baltazar.

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GMA overrules Roco, okays Naga Palaro

By Marc Anthony Reyes

AFTER a two-week standoff, the 2002 Palarong Pambansa will push through after all.

President Arroyo yesterday overruled the earlier decision of Education Secretary Raul Roco to cancel the country's premier talent-search program slated on June 3-10 due to delay of funds, among other things.

The President said: "Naga City is ready, the Philippine Sports Commission is ready, and I have already signed the recommendation made by (Executive) Secretary Alberto Romulo."

Ms Arroyo was in Cagayan de Oro when she made the announcement, which provided relief to some 9,000 athletes and officials, who have been apprehensive that the Games would be scrapped for the third straight year.

Rep. Monico Puentevella and PSC chair Eric Buhain, who along with Naga City Mayor Jessie Robredo have been pushing for the staging of the Games, are set to talk with Department of Education regional directors to smoothen the details of the event.

So far, 14 of the 16 regional directors have submitted their entries, which is an assurance of their preparedness, according to Puentevella.

"Those who have yet to submit their entries are the National Capital Region and the host region (Bicol)," said Buhain. "It's understandable because they are both trying to maximize their chances of winning the overall title."

Buhain added that some regional directors have submitted their entries as early as May 3.

"This is really a bright day for Philippine sports and the PSC would like to thank President Arroyo for her genuine concern for local sports," said Buhain. "Preparations are in high gear since the past two months. We are definitely ready."

It wasn't the case for a few days last week as Roco announced the cancellation of the Games due to money delay, the inclusion of basketball — which is not in the original calendar — and unprepared regional directors.

But the PSC has since come up with at least P36 million from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office; agreed to scrap basketball; and attested to the readiness of the DepEd regional officials.

MACAPAGAL

Korean cagers arriving

By Roy Luarca

KONKUK University of Korea heads the six teams competing in the National Interclub Basketball Championship from May 18-25 at the Cebu Coliseum.

Tallest among the 14 players is 6-foot-9 center Baek Choon Woong while the smallest is 5-foot-9 guard Lee Oh Suk. The oldest is 22-year-old An Chul Ho and the youngest 17-year-old Kim Hee Young.

The Korean delegation, flying direct to Cebu from Seoul today, would be led by the legendary Shin Dong Pa, now the secretary general of the Korea Basketball Federation. The coach is Kim Seung Hwan and the team manager Yoo Song Sil.

Also entered are Spring Cooking Oil and Cebu-based teams M. Lhuillier, ML Kuwarta Padala, Osaka Iridology and University of Visayas.

The Bobby Parks-powered Spring Cooking Oil donned the country's colors in the recent ABC Champions' Cup in Kuala Lumpur where it placed seventh among 10 squads.

M. Lhuillier is Cebu's dominant amateur team, while the UV Lancers formed the core of the Central Visayas team that topped the just concluded Private Schools Athletic Association basketball competition.

The Korean delegation would be led by the legendary Shin Dong Pa.

Dodong Aquino, the Basketball Association of the Philippines vice president for the Visayas, is chair of the organizing committee of the tournament intended to choose the Philippine representative to the Southeast Asian Basketball Association men's championship.

Working hand-in-hand with Aquino in putting up the tournament is James Bragat, the BAP Region VII director.

Summer Fun Run May 26

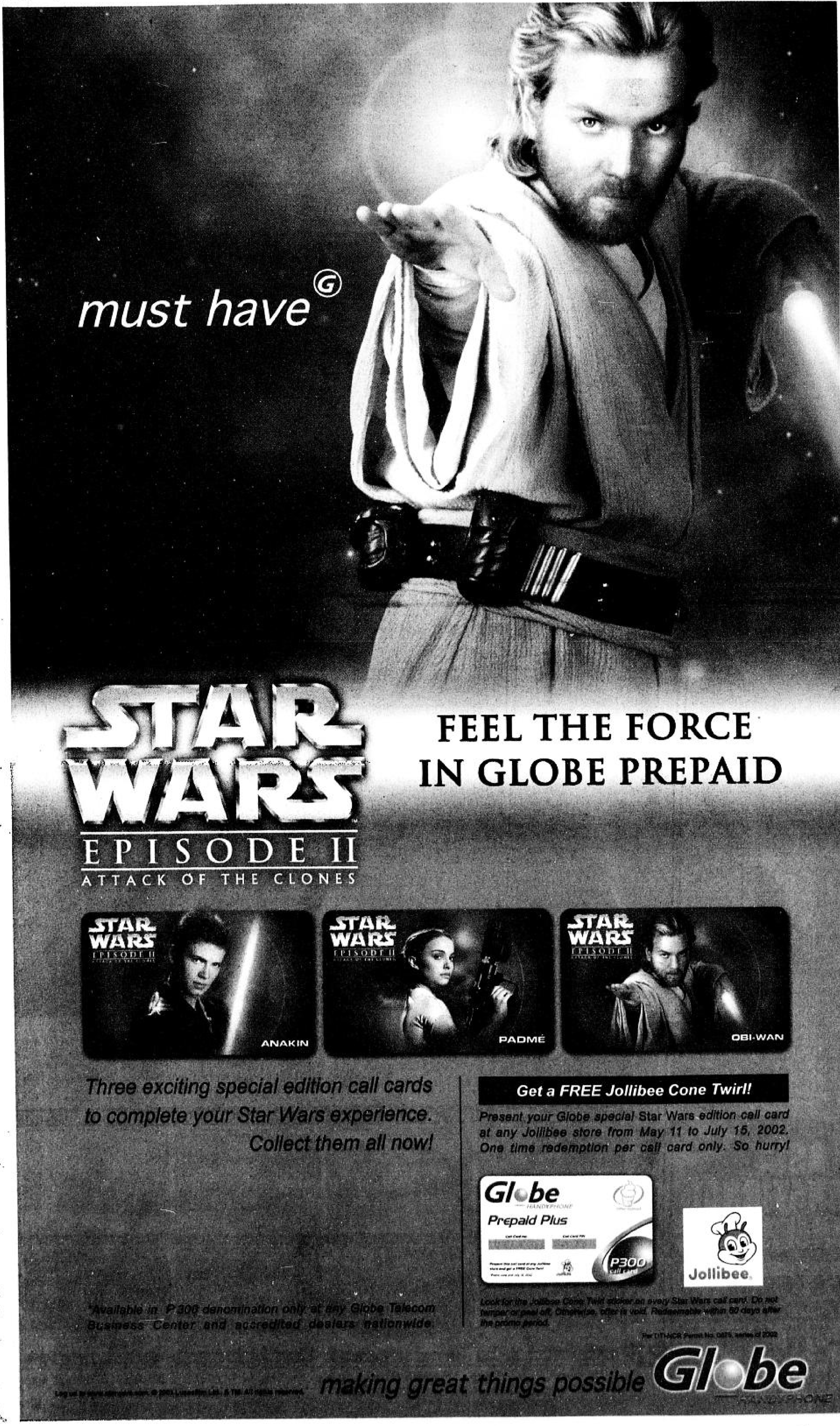
PASIG City Running Club (PCRC), in cooperation with Pharmaton Phils., will hold its 3rd Summer Fun Run on May 26 at the Philsport Complex (formerly Ultra).

Cash prizes, trophies and medals will be awarded to top runners and top age category finishers.

All runners are assured of singlets and raffle prizes (Pharmaton gift packs, towels, sport socks, caps, T-shirts, umbrellas, etc.)

The running club with the biggest delegation will receive P1,000 plus trophy. Free snacks will be served to participants. Entry fee is P100.

Registration is on at the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza, Annapolis St., Greenhills, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Interested parties may call Babes at 0917-4568277, Romy (641-1146), Enoq (641-5346, Mario (640-1253) or E-mail cha@compass.com.ph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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0875, series of 2002

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

'Weakest Link' dies after fall from street post

By Tina Santos

THIS losing contestant couldn't stand being the weakest link.

Eighteen-year-old Zelig Zapata of Maypajo, Caloocan City, who had reportedly failed twice to win in a popular television game show, climbed a Meralco post and stood on top of a transformer.

He tried to commit suicide the other day.

But Zapata died of electrocution after he accidentally touched a high-tension wire a minute after he had supposedly decided to get down.

WEAKEST/ A22

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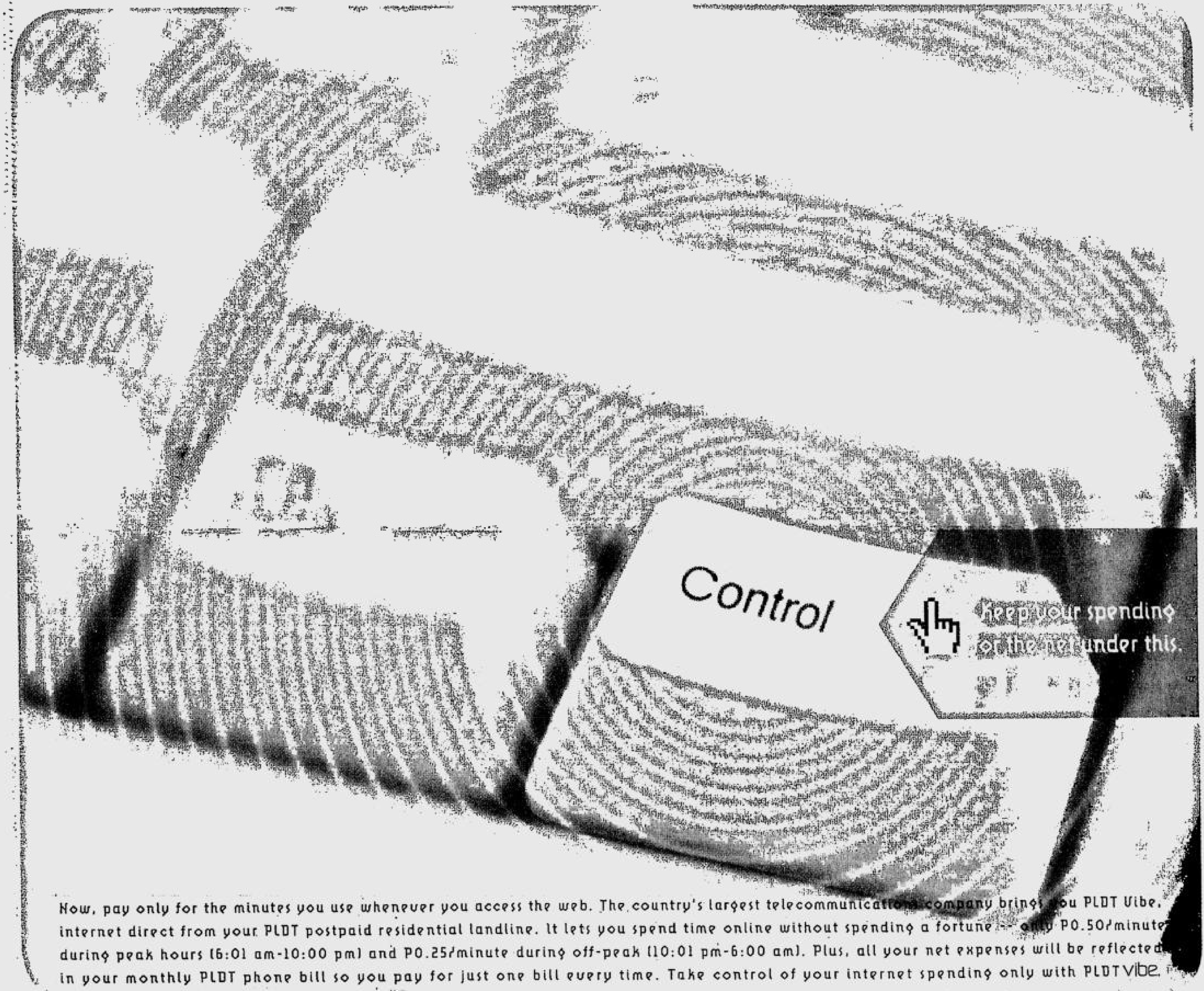

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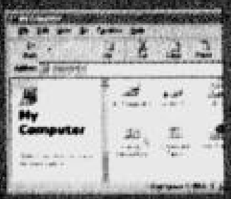
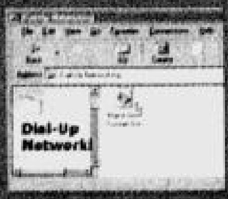
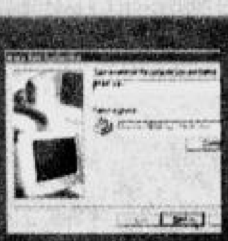


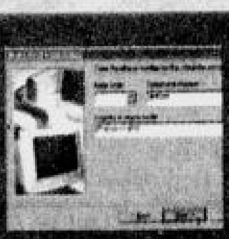
1. Create a PLDT Vibe dialer by double clicking "My Computer" on your PC Desktop. Then double click the "Dial-up Networking" folder.



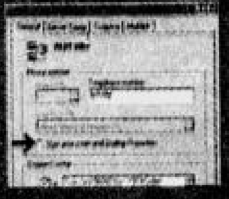
2. Double-click "Make New Connection".



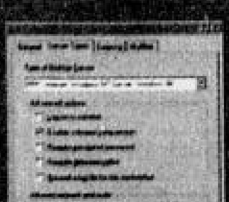
3. Type "PLDT Vibe" on space provided. Select the right modem you are using and click "Next".



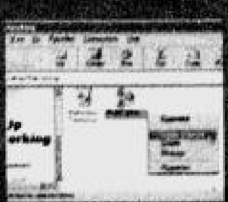
4. Leave the area code blank, type in 101300 in Telephone Number field and select Philippines as the country or region code. Then click "Next", then "Finish".



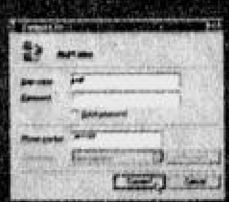
5. Go back to the Dial-up Networking folder and right click on PLDT Vibe Dialer and select "Properties". Uncheck the "Use Area Code and Dialing Properties" check box.



6. Select the "Server Types" tab. Make sure that the "Type of Dial-up Server" uses PPP and that the only items that are checked are "Enable Software Compression" and "TCP/IP". Click "OK".



7. Right click on the PLDT Vibe dialer again and select "Create Shortcut". When asked, click "Yes" to create the shortcut on your Desktop.



8. To start surfing, double-click on the "shortcut to PLDT Vibe" dialer icon on your Desktop. Then enter "pldt" on the username field and "vibe" on the password field on the dialer then click on the "connect" button.

As soon as you are connected to PLDT Vibe, just click on your browser (i.e. Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator) to start surfing.

To access PLDT Vibe, all you need are:
- PC OR LAPTOP
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For more information, call 171 (for Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao), or 1-800-1-888-9090 (for North and South Luzon).

ERIK ARAZAS

MOISES Hayaay (shown on the right holding a crutch), 60, listens to a Caloocan City official explain why his house had to be torn down and his family relocated to another part of the city, in the name of progress.

There's no stopping the Demolition Team

By Tina Santos

DESPITE pleas from residents, Caloocan City officials yesterday went ahead and tore down their shanties in the Bukid Area near city hall, leaving more than 80 families homeless.

Police were deployed in the area to pacify the residents. They arrested some residents who allegedly tried to block the demolition team. Elena Layson, 37, was nabbed for shouting invectives at the authorities.

Even Caloocan City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo was not spared. Affected residents turned on Malonzo, denouncing him for evicting them.

The shanties were razed reportedly to pave the way for the construction of more buildings at the compound of the Caloocan City Hall-North on Zapote Road, Camarin.

City officials yesterday announced the affected residents will be relocated to another part of Camarin.

Gov't should not return captured MILF camps

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

ONE of the provisions in the agreement that the government recently signed with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is for the areas captured by government troops during the strife two years ago to be reoccupied by civilians.

The government should never allow MILF regulars to get back to the captured MILF camps like Abubakar and Rajah Muda.

If the MILF rebels get back in, they will again turn their former camps into rebel strongholds. They will have a chance to regroup and fight the government in the future.

***

Camps Abubakar and Rajah Muda were places which gave the MILF the status of belligerency. This means that the confrontation with the Moro rebels reached a stalemate and government, in effect, recognized their independent status.

Before the two camps and MILF satellite camps were captured, the MILF set up its own set of laws separate from that of the republic. To show that it had its own government, the MILF even made public executions of persons found guilty of certain crimes.

For all his faults, President Erap made the Moro rebels realize they were subject to Philippine laws.

***

Allowing the MILF to regain even a small foothold in the two former camps would bring demoralization to the military.

The two rebel camps were captured at the cost of so many soldiers' lives. Of course, more rebels lost their lives defending the camps.

Let the two camps be made an example of the supremacy of the military over any armed group in the country.

***

Many people may look with contempt at Sen. Loi Estrada for using the august halls of the Senate to hit at the Sandiganbayan which is trying her husband and son for plunder.

But they find repulsive the Sandiganbayan's issuing a subpoena to Senator Loi to appear before it to account for her statements in Congress.

***Nabobobo na ba kayo diyan sa* Sandiganbayan? Don't you know that Senator Loi enjoy parliamentary immunity?**

***

Yes, some lawmakers abuse the privilege of parliamentary immunity privilege by denouncing their enemies in the halls of Congress.

But no court of law should ever question that privilege.

It's a tool of senators and congressmen to hold in check abuses committed by members of the executive and the judiciary.

***

It's too early in the game but mud is flying thick and fast in the direction of President Macapagal-Arroyo to blacken her image for the 2004 presidential election.

But since they can't hit at her integrity and competence, they aim at her Achilles heel, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

They accuse him of a lot of things, mostly without basis. The latest accusation is that Mike allegedly is gathering cash from revenue-generating government agencies, like the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs, to finance his wife's campaign in 2004.

***

I can say this without batting an eyelash: in the short time that I have known him, Mike Arroyo tries to avoid topics concerning the government.

Sometimes I get flattered that I know more things that are happening in the government than he does. This means that he doesn't meddle in his wife's work.

He expresses genuine surprise when he learns some verified, as well as unverified, reports about some people in government. But he always tells me: "*Isulat mo yan,* Mon, *para malaman ni* Gloria (Write about it so Gloria will know)."

Now, how can you accuse a man of meddling in the affairs of his wife when he's ignorant most of the time of what is happening in the government?

***

If we can solve our problems of insurgency and kidnapping, hundreds of thousands of tourists will come to our shores because we have countless places that are so beautiful they are postcard stuff.

The Barracuda Lake in Coron, Palawan, is one example. Located on top of a rocky mountain, the clear water in the pristine lake invites visitors to swim in it.

It's a hard climb to the mountain top from the base where your banca sets anchor after a half-hour ride from the town's pier. But the panting and huffing disappear as the lake looms into view. Its beauty is breath-taking!

***

Before you explore the tourist sites in other countries, explore first the tourist places in your own backyard.

Coron is an hour away by light plane from Manila. The flights are always full. Coron island can also be reached by ship from Manila in 12 hours.

I have gone to so many beautiful places in the country, but nothing beats the beauty of Coron and the other neighboring islands and islets in the Calamian group of islands. There are countless other places to see, aside from the Barracuda Lake.

You will know what I am talking about if you go visit Coron yourself.

Ex-Army captain, top shabu dealer, falls in QC buy-bust

By Philip C. Tubeza
Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A FORMER Philippine Army captain tagged as a major supplier of shabu in Metro Muslim communities was arrested with two companions during a buy-bust operation at the SM City in Quezon City, the National Bureau of Investigation announced yesterday.

NBI deputy director Fermin Nasol identified the ex-Army officer as Abdul Cadilingan, 42, of Muslim Center in Quiapo, Manila.

He was a former company commander of the 1st Infantry "Tabak" Division in Zamboanga del Sur.

Two other suspects arrested with Cadilingan were Samsurin Dolonan, 24, also of Muslim center in Quiapo, and Asrap Buwao, of Commonwealth, Quezon City.

Nasol said NBI agents confiscated from the group around 300 grams of shabu worth more than P600,000 during the buy-bust operation at SM City parking lot.

Nasol said the NBI had received information that Cadilingan was selling shabu in Muslim centers in Culiat, Quezon City; Quiapo, Manila; and at the Maharlika Village, Taguig.

Lawyer Dave G. Segunial, the officer-in-charge of NBI's Narcotics Division, said intelligence reports showed that the army officer is a major supplier of shabu in these Muslim communities.

"This was not the first time he got involved (in a drug deal). He dealt with bigger amounts (of drugs) before," Segunial said.

"He could (sell) two kilos in a single deal. That was our target but we did not have enough money when we entrapped him," Segunial added.

He said an NBI informant arranged a deal between Cadilingan and an NBI agent posing as a shabu buyer last week.

After some negotiations, Cadilingan agreed to sell 300 grams of shabu to the undercover agent and scheduled the delivery and payment on the evening of May 13 at the parking lot of SM West in Quezon City.

On Monday evening, Cadilingan and his two companions arrived at the parking lot to meet the NBI agent.

Cadilingan demanded the money first before handing out the bag of shabu to the NBI agent.

The ex-Army officer was about to leave after getting the marked money when NBI agents pounced on him and his two accomplices.

Segunial said Cadilingan claimed that he was on a mission to infiltrate the syndicate selling shabu in Muslim areas.

"But when we asked him if he had a handler, he could not point to anyone. If you are going to go undercover, you should have the proper documents first," Segunial said.

The suspects have been detained at the NBI headquarters after they were charged before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office with drug trafficking.

The fiscal recommended no bail for the suspects.

Segunial said that street price of shabu has gone down to P4,800 for five grams from a high of P9,000 in October last year when the authorities caught Panukulan, Quezon Mayor Ronnie Mitra trying to smuggle 500 kilos of shabu in Quezon Province.

Unlucky 13 in Taguig

AT least 13 drug users were found to be working at the Taguig municipal government.

Mayor Sigfrido Tinga yesterday ordered the dismissal of Robert White, who is assigned at the General Services Office, for failing to pass the local government's mandatory drug test for its employees.

Twelve other casual employees were suspended for six months without pay for failing the same test, according to a release from the municipal government.

"It is the policy of my administration to immediately remove from the service, not only erring and unproductive employees, but also those who are involved in illegal activities," Tinga said in the statement.

The Taguig Anti-Drug Abuse Council began conducting unannounced drug tests for employees based on the resolution by Councilor Henry Duenas Jr.

Christian Esguerra

METROBRIEFS

Pool winner slain

AFTER LOSING four straight games of pool, an unidentified man stabbed to death on Tuesday night his opponent Edgardo Dacumos, 42, in a billiard hall on E. Rodriguez Street in Pasay City. Police said Dacumos died due to stab wounds before he could be brought to the Pasay City General Hospital.

Christian V. Esguerra

Cop shot dead

SPO1 Roberto Despi, 42, a member of the Regional Mobile Group of the National Capital Region Police Office, died after two unidentified men shot him in Pasay City. He was on his way home after a basketball game when two gunmen on a motorcycle passed by and shot him at the corner of M. dela Cruz and Protacio Extension around 10:20 p.m. on Tuesday. The killing happened several hours after Despi and another policemen were arraigned before a Pasay court for allegedly killing an SAF officer, according to Supt. Eduardo dela Cerna, the city police chief.

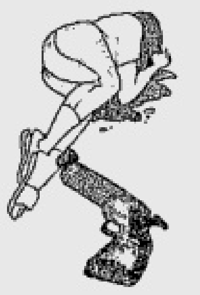
Christian V. Esguerra

Driver stabbed dead

DRIVER Joseph M. Santiago, 36, was killed after quarreling with an unidentified man who teased him for talking with a woman. Santiago, alias Ferdie, of 194 B. Mangga St., West Rembo, Fort Bonifacio, Makati was stabbed dead about noon on Tuesday in Ermita, Manila said Detective Athos Lim de Quiros, of the Western Police District-homicide section. Police described the suspect as 30 years old, of medium build, 5'6" tall, and with fair complexion.

Philip C. Tubeza

Vengeful attack



TWO TEENAGE boys are now in critical condition after they were stabbed and hacked by the father and brother of a girl they had allegedly tried to rape in Malabon. One of the teens suffered a stab wound in the chest, while the other sustained hack wounds in the head and arms. Police said the two teens and their unidentified buddies chanced upon their supposed victim, Jocelyn Bandong, 21, of Longos, Malabon, who was fetching a pail of water from a nearby deep well. The two teens allegedly touched the girl's private parts. Bandon ran home, but the teens followed her and tried to rape her, police said. The girl's father Jose, 49, and brother Greg, engaged the group in a free-for-all where they managed to stab and hack the two suspects, police said. Frustrated homicide charges were filed against the Bandongs who would file counter charges of trespassing and acts of lasciviousness. ***Tina Santos***

Man shoots wife, kills self

VICENTE SEPENA, 52, shot himself in front of his brother after shooting his jealous wife Luzviminda yesterday morning in Navotas. Sepena died with a gunshot wound in the forehead while Luzviminda is now in critical condition at the Tondo General Hospital after being shot in the chest. Police said the couple's daughter Lea heard her parents fighting at 1:30 a.m. yesterday over another woman, supposedly Sepena's mistress. She later heard a gunshot and went to her mother's rescue. Sepena next ran to his brother Reynaldo and shot himself in front of his sibling, police said. ***Tina Santos***

Japanese offer reward

JAPANESE tourists Tetsuji Morita and his wife Kayoko and sister Ritsuko are offering a P5,000 reward for the return of a business diary and documents that were stolen from them along with a video camera worth P200,000 and other valuables. The tourists were about to fly back to Japan before noon Saturday when they discovered that three of their bags were missing inside a Nissan Vanette owned by travel agent Honorio Guevarra, security records showed. The van was parked at the open lot of the Duty Free Shop in Parañaque. A window of the van was forcibly opened, according to the initial investigation of the Golden Beret Security and Allied Services Inc.

Christian V. Esguerra

'Weakest . . .

(From page A21)

Zapata, who suffered third degree burns all over his body, was given first-aid by firefighters who rushed to him after he was thrown away from the 50-foot utility post and fell to the ground.

The victim was initially rushed to Martinez Memorial Hospital.

He was later transferred to the Dr. Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital where he died while undergoing treatment.

Investigation showed that Zapata managed to get to the top part of the post by crawling though the roof of their house.

Authorities said they were prompted to provide foams from old beds should Zapata decide to jump off from the pole.

Electric current passing through the transformer was likewise cut off by Meralco personnel.

After negotiations which lasted for about an hour, Zapata reportedly decided to climb down.

However, he accidentally touched an exposed live wire and got electrocuted.

With the violent spasm, the victim, however, did not fall on the foams.

He was thrown some 10 meters away from the utility post and landed on the other side of the road.

It was later learned that the victim was scolded by his parents after he was suspected of stealing his father's P2,000.

The incident reportedly prompted him to lock himself inside the toilet.

Zapata came out of hiding only after his parents had forcibly opened the door to the toilet.

Police theorized that Zapata might have been depressed over his failure to win in a popular game show which he had reportedly joined twice.

The INQUIRER at press time was still confirming with Viva TV, producers of The Weakest Link, if Zapata had indeed joined the game show.

2 more die inside Manila City Jail

TWO MANILA City Jail inmates died on Tuesday, barely a week after jail authorities reported the death of three other prisoners.

Inmates Jessie Espendido, 33, and Jerry Ambrosio, about 20, were reported dead about 10 hours apart on the same day, said Detective Dennis Javier of the Western Police District homicide section.

Espendido, in jail for a drug-related case, died at around 7:30 a.m. on May 14, after he complained he had difficulty in breathing, Javier said.

Ambrosio, a Bahala Na Gang member, died that afternoon after he allegedly slipped on the floor and slammed his head, said Detective Alfredo Salazar also of the WPD.

Espendido and Ambrosio died on the way to the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital.

Last week, three inmates died in detention. Two of them also complained of difficulty in breathing, while the other died of tuberculosis, police said.

Philip Tubeza, Edson Tandoc Jr.

NBI agents nab Bulgar columnist

By Jerome Aning

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents arrested a tabloid columnist for alleged extortion during an entrapment operation in a Quezon City night spot Monday night.

The suspect was identified as Renato "Nats" Taboy, a columnist for Bulgar and resident of Quezon City.

Taboy allegedly tried to extort some P20,000 from one Kay Santos, a customs broker whom he attacked in a column published on March 22.

But Taboy, speaking to reporters at the NBI detention cell, denied the accusations and scored Santos for the latter's illegal activities at the Bureau of Customs and even tagged Santos as "smuggler." He said the charges were filed to stop him in his "crusade" to rid the BOC of corruption.

The NBI said Taboy used an intermediary—identified only as "Jimmy"—to approach Santos and ask for P20,000 in exchange for airing his side. The meeting took place at the Mystique Disco Theater along Quezon Avenue in Quezon City at 9 p.m. Monday.

But unknown to Taboy, Santos had sought NBI assistance, and an entrapment was laid for him. NBI agents positioned themselves in the club and pounced on Taboy while he counted the P20,000 marked money.

Strangely, the marked money went missing after the operation.

The columnist was charged with extortion before the QC prosecutor's office yesterday morning.

Quality educational TV forum opens today

STARTING today, educational television productions that have earned recognition from the Japan Prize International Educational Program Contest and the Philippines' Anak TV Seal will be screened at Seameo Innotech Center at the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman during the Japan Prize Asian Special Session in the Philippines.

The theme of the forum, which runs until Saturday, is "Producing Quality Educational Television: Issues and Strategies."

It aims to enhance the quality of educational television (ETV) programs and programming. It will look at ways to equip producers, directors, scriptwriters, program buyers and educational technology experts with skills in developing and selecting programs appropriate to specific learning situations.

The forum will also seek to draft a set of standards and guidelines in producing quality ETV programs.

A panel of experts from Japan, China and the Philippines will discuss global standards for quality ETV program while special lectures on media literacy and digital broadcast technologies will be conducted by Japanese experts.

The event is organized by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (Seameo Innotech), Hoso Bunka Foundation, NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corp.), Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas and the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children's Television. For details, call Baby Reyno at 924-7681 through 84.

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4	VIDEOKE KING
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6	STAR WARS
7	SPIDERMAN
8	STAR WARS
9	STAR WARS
10	SANA TOTOO NA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
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2	FRUIT IS SWELLING
3	K-PAX
4	SPIDERMAN
5	STAR WARS
6	VIDEOKE KING
7	STAR WARS
8	SPIDERMAN
9	SANA TOTOO NA
10	7 DAYS TO LIVE
11	SCORPION KING
12	STAR WARS

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9	VIDEOKE KING
10	I AM SAM
11	7 DAYS TO LIVE
12	STAR WARS

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10	STAR WARS
11	I AM SAM
12	FRUIT IS SWELLING

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
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2	SPIDERMAN
3	SANA TOTOO NA
4	VIDEOKE KING
5	HARDBALL
6	STAR WARS
7	STAR WARS
8	SPIDERMAN
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8066868

1	HARDBALL
2	JASON-X
3	STAR WARS
4	STAR WARS
5	SANA TOTOO NA
6	SCORPION KING
7	VIDEOKE KING
8	SPIDERMAN
9	STAR WARS
10	FRUIT IS SWELLING

SM CITY CEBU
2313670

1	STAR WARS
2	SPIDERMAN
3	ROLLERBALL
4	SCORPION KING
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6	BUKANG BIBIG
7	SPIDERMAN
8	STAR WARS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	DEVIL'S MASK
2	CLOSED
3	SPIDERMAN
4	STAR WARS
5	ROLLERBALL
6	STAR WARS
7	CLOSED
8	HARDBALL

SM CITY PAMPANGA
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4	STAR WARS
5	HARDBALL
6	VIDEOKE KING

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2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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2	STAR WARS
3	SANA TOTOO NA
4	STAR WARS

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2	ROLLERBALL
3	RIPPER
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5	STAR WARS
6	SPIDERMAN

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GLORIETTA 4 cinema 6 - 11:40 / 2:30 / 5:20 / 8:10 / 11:00

GREENBELT 1 cinema 2 - 11:10 / 1:55 / 4:40 / 7:25 / 10:10

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GLORIETTA 3(QUAD) cinema 3 - 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20

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5	
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I'm no Ecstasy user or pusher

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I WAS quite hesitant to write about the ongoing controversy regarding allegations that I'm an Ecstasy pusher and I'm part of the NBI's watchlist.

Some readers might say I'm being defensive but my friends in and out of show biz prodded me to air my side.

I've said my piece in "Startalk" and "The Buzz." Since you can't re-read a TV interview, I guess the written word has more impact and permanence. Besides, other papers have put me in their front page and various writers have made their own comments about the issue. So instead of being misquoted, I might as well write about the real score. It is my only hope that this column will finally put the issue to rest.

As I said in "The Buzz," I am innocent but I am not ignorant. I'm well aware of the bad effects of Ecstasy and I have some friends who are into "E."

I've always been a free spirit so I just let my friends be. If there's anything I've learned in life, it's that you cannot change people. You can only unmask them. No matter how much you love someone, he has to change on his own volition.

I have different sets of friends. How boring life would be if you just limit your social life to a certain circle. I enjoy wining and dining with my jet-setter friends as much as I get solace whining and sighing with my "*mababaw ang luha at kaligayan*" pals (comme moi!) My life is part sitcom, part telenovela with all the colorful characters I hang out with (and those I fall in and out of love with!).

Anybody who really knows me can vouch for the fact that I'm a drinker. I've mastered the art of drinking since my student days in Paris. It's not that I'm proud of it, but neither am I embarrassed by it.

I never get into something only to create my own ghost and run away from it. I always do what I feel and feel what I do.

Ecstasy and alcohol don't mix. It's a choice between the lesser evil. I'd rather drink than do drugs. But I know my limits. I just love dangerously. I don't live dangerously.

Being a denial queen has never been my style. I leave no question unanswered. I only speak the truth. Even if sometimes I end up being sincerely wrong, what matters is that I'm being true to myself regardless of what people think of me.

I own up to my mistakes of falling for the wrong guy over and over again. So if I were an Ecstasy user and pusher, I would readily admit it even before I'm asked. Yup, even if it means I get incarcerated. What the heck? I brought it upon myself so I get what I deserve. As long as I lived it up, it's well worth whatever punishment I get.

It's not truth or consequence for me. I always tell the truth and I'm ready to face the consequence.

I'm glad that my two kids know me too well that they are not even affected by the nasty rumor. We have such a cool relationship. My daughter **Bianchi** and I just laughed it all off.

Thank God, too, that my ma trusts me enough to know thar even if I live away from her, I don't misbehave. I may be naughty but I'm no bad girl. My "family" in my official headquarters "Friends at the Square" (St. Francis Square Mandaluyong where drugs are a big no-no!) has already made a running joke about the issue. As soon as I enter, they all holler, "Hello pusher! Ha, ha, ha!"

They search my bag and kid around, "Aren't you going to give us discount?"

The fact that I'm not taking the issue seriously only goes to show that I'm really drug-free. As far as Ecstasy is concerned, I need not be chemically induced or seduced. I prefer another kind of ecstasy. Why settle for the artificial kind when you already got the real one?

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare @yahoo.com

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	VIDEOKE KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	7 DAYS TO LIVE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DTS)	JASON X
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	HARDBALL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	K-PAX
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	KAPIRASONG GUBAT . .
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
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ODEON	STAR WARS
ODEON-2	FRUIT IS SWELLING
ROBEN	SANA TOTOO NA
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	FROM HELL / D 'TOX
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	SANA TOTOO NA
REMAR	STAR WARS
REMAR-2	SANA TOTOO NA
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SANA TOTOO NA
B	KAPIRASONG GUBAT .
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SANA TOTOO NA
CINEMA-2	BUKANG BIBIG
CINEMA-3	K-PAX
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-6	JASON-X
CINEMA-7	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-8	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-12	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-14	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-15	SPIDERMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-2	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-3	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-4	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-5	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-6	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
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STAR WARS - GP 12:20, 3:15, 6:10, 9:05	STAR WARS - GP 12:55, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40	STAR WARS - GP 11:45, 2:40,, 5:35, 8:30, 11:25

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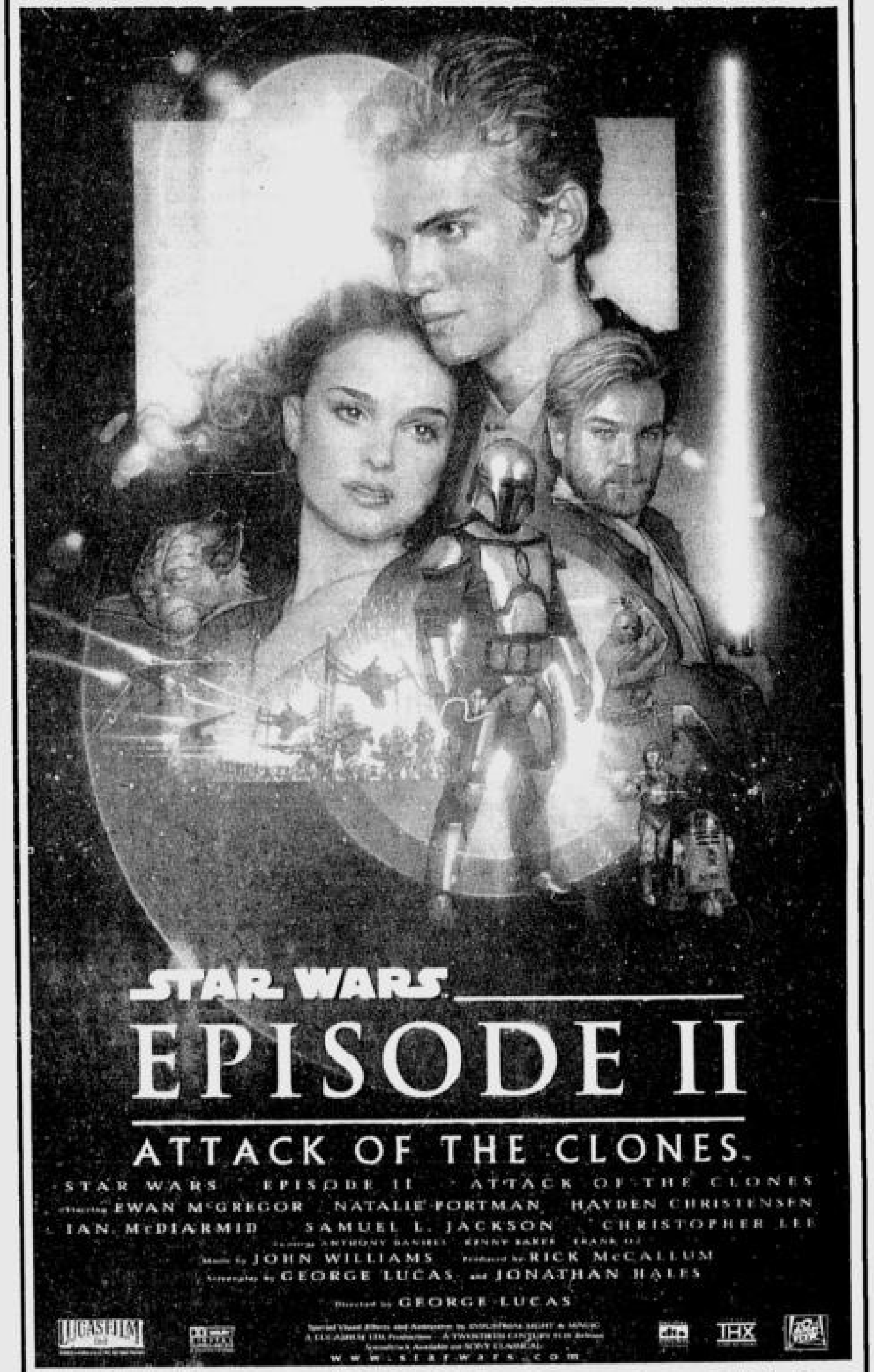
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2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	5 SPIDERMAN	2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
3 SPIDERMAN	3 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	6 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	3 SPIDERMAN	3 SPIDERMAN
4 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2		7 SPIDERMAN	4 Onstage MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE May 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 & June 1	4 SPIDERMAN
				5 SPIDERMAN

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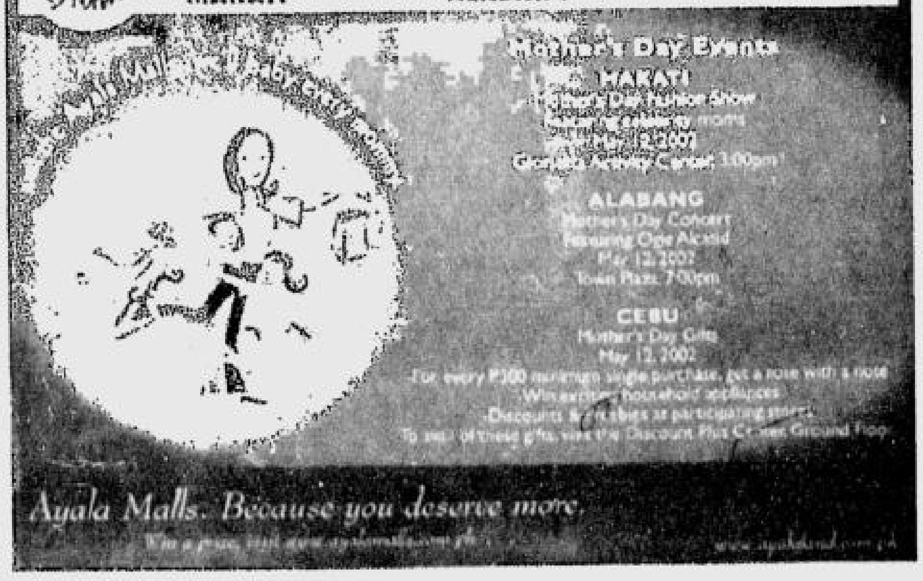

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

The Force is strong in 'Attack of the Clones'

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.

REVIEW

THIS may not be just another movie but it still is supposed to be a movie, isn't it? Yet, when that magnificent John Williams score starts playing and the familiar Lucas film logo comes out on the screen, followed by the words "Star Wars" and the introductory crawl of "Once upon a time, in a galaxy far, far away . . ." one can't help but feel differently.

"The Phantom Menace" despite its dull "trade wars" story, Jake Lloyd's upsetting portrayal of Anakin Skywalker, and hideously drawn computer horrors like Jar Jar Binks and Faginesque, did not after all spoil my yearning. Sure it wasn't perfect. But the first of the three prequels of the "Star Wars" saga still had me eager to see and experience more of the magic that is in George Lucas' mind.

No doubt The Force still lives. And in "Episode II: Attack of the Clones," the force is strong. Or as Master Yoda would say in his own roundabout way, "Strong the force in this one truly is." And he should know.

In "The Phantom Menace," the light saber battle between Ray Park's Darth Maul, he of the menacing stares and quick reflexes, and Qui-Gon Jinn (Liam Neeson) and Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) had us on the edge of our seats. It was a virtuoso action sequence that epitomized the myth and fascination behind the Jedi knighthood.

In "Attack of the Clones," we get to see why Master Yoda is master of all Jedi in a scene that is sure to rouse die-hard fans and have them cheering their voice hoarse.

Confrontation

The confrontation between him and the villain Count Dooku, a once revered Jedi who trained under Yoda himself, will perhaps be *the* defining action sequence in "Star Wars" history, unless Lucas tops it in Episode Three.

Dooku, played by acting legend Christopher Lee (who just played another villain, Saruman in another epic, "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring") is a master swordsman of the old school and has immense physical and mental powers. But in a *mano-a-mano* contest against His Royal Greenness . . . well, let's just say Yoda more than just waves his stick around.

Certainly being a Jedi goes beyond having saber skills and psychic powers. We know it involves nobility, honor, heroism and all that. But ask any kid from 12 to 42 what he'd like most about being a Jedi, and I reckon most of the answers would be to look good in those light saber duels wearing that hood.

"Attack of the Clones" has probably the most Jedi performing the most astounding light saber action sequences ever seen in any "Star Wars" film. The film's stunt coordinator Nick Gillard reportedly visited 20 Kendo schools and "fight clubs" where he interviewed over 500 swordsmen to fill Jedi positions.

In a truly riveting climactic encounter, Jedi knights, greatly outnumbered, heroically fight hundreds of enemy droids to their deaths, each of them using his or her own distinctive martial arts and sword fighting techniques.

Starfighters

The dogfights between Jedi starfighters and Imperial destroyers that we've grown to love in past "Star Wars" films are yawners compared to this sequence.

Obi-Wan, now a Jedi just like his late mentor Qui-Gon, reprises his fierce fighting form when he squares off with the fearless bounty hunter Jango Fett in a rainswept, no holds barred scene. First it's sword against gun, with the bounty hunter warily keeping his distance from the Jedi (they say that within three feet nothing can stop a Jedi). But when the two warriors both lose their weapons, it's a knockdown-drag out fight that leaves me gagging for more.

For those familiar with the "Star Wars" lore, Jango Fett is the bounty hunter father of Boba Fett, who was introduced in "The Empire Strikes Back" as the feared warrior cashing in on Jabba the Hutt's bounty on Han Solo. Jango's manufactured offspring in "Attack of the Clones" make up the Republic's warrior clone army—good guys here, taking instructions from Yoda and fighting alongside Jedi knights, bad guys later, as they will be Darth Vader's Imperial Stormtroopers.

Samuel L. Jackson, as cool as ever, returns as Jedi Master Mace Windu, whose fighting abilities are second only to Yoda. Jackson describes Mace's fighting style as very efficient but economic. "No fancy sword twirling. He uses minimal energy . . . and maximum lethalness."

Then of course we have Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen), here no longer a boy but a confident, headstrong 19-year-old chafing under the tutelage of his master Obi-Wan.

Ambitions

Anakin has ambitions of being the most powerful Jedi of all and we see flashes of the brilliance as well as the destructive emotions in the young man who will later be Darth Vader. In his duel with Dooku, he is lightning-quick and attacks relentlessly.

Lucas impressively plays with lights and shadows in the scene. As lasers of blue and red emerge from the darkness, we only get glimpses of the duelists when their light sabers connect.

Lucas' forte in creating worlds and pushing the special effects envelope is once again at work in "Attack of the Clones" and audiences would probably agree that he doesn't just meet expectations of the film but exceeds them. He and his topnotch designers offer us new worlds like Kamino, a storm-shrouded planet with very tall and interestingly attractive aliens, and the red rock planet Geonosis, where the battle sequences take place, including a glorious gladiator combat in an immense arena filled with thousands of computer-generated alien extras cheering for blood.

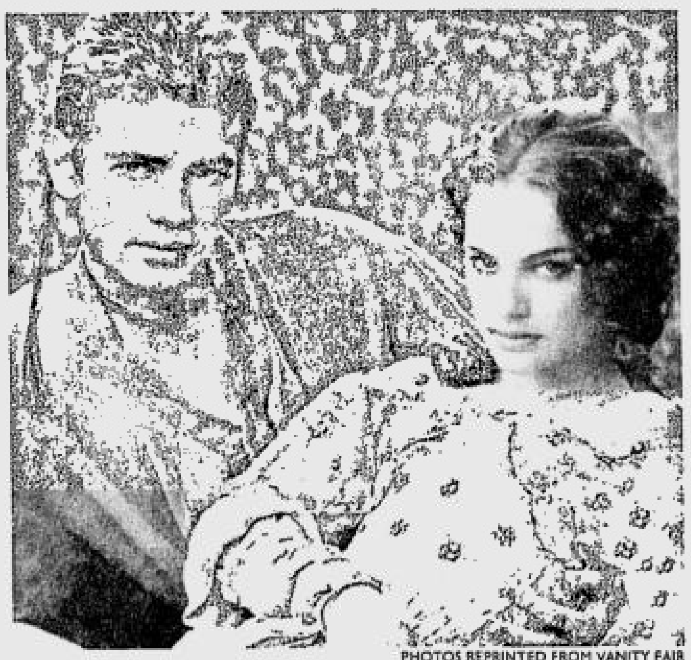
We also get another look at Coruscant, the Republic's capital, where the Senate and the Jedi headquarters are located; Anakin's home planet, Tatooine; and Naboo where Natalie Portman's Padme once served as Queen Amidala.

The veritable banquet of audio-visual pleasures is in itself worth the price of one's theater ticket, but Lucas vision isn't just limited to hooking us with wonder after wonder. "Attack of the Clones" has more going for it in terms of heart, plot and human interest. Central to the film is the journey of Anakin Skywalker and the gathering moral darkness that would someday lead to his violent spiral into the Dark Side.

Good and evil

Themes of heroism, duty and honor are staged in a universe constantly buffeted by the competing forces of good and evil. The film takes on darker, heavier subjects like forbidden love, rebellion, betrayal, even civil war. The love story may be as corny as Jack and Rose in "Titanic," but it is a necessary element in establishing bonds in this "past as prologue" approach.

This is not a mindless blockbuster after all, designed just to make a killing at the box office. Ultimately, what makes this 25-year-old cultural phenomenon truly venerable is a good story, with great characters, told in Lucas fashion, and well . . . a Force that lives beyond the movie.



PHOTOS REPRINTED FROM VANITY FAIR

"EPISODE II" STARS. Hayden Christensen as Anakin Skywalker and Natalie Portman as Padmé Amidala.

EWAN McGregor is back as Obi-Wan Kenobi.

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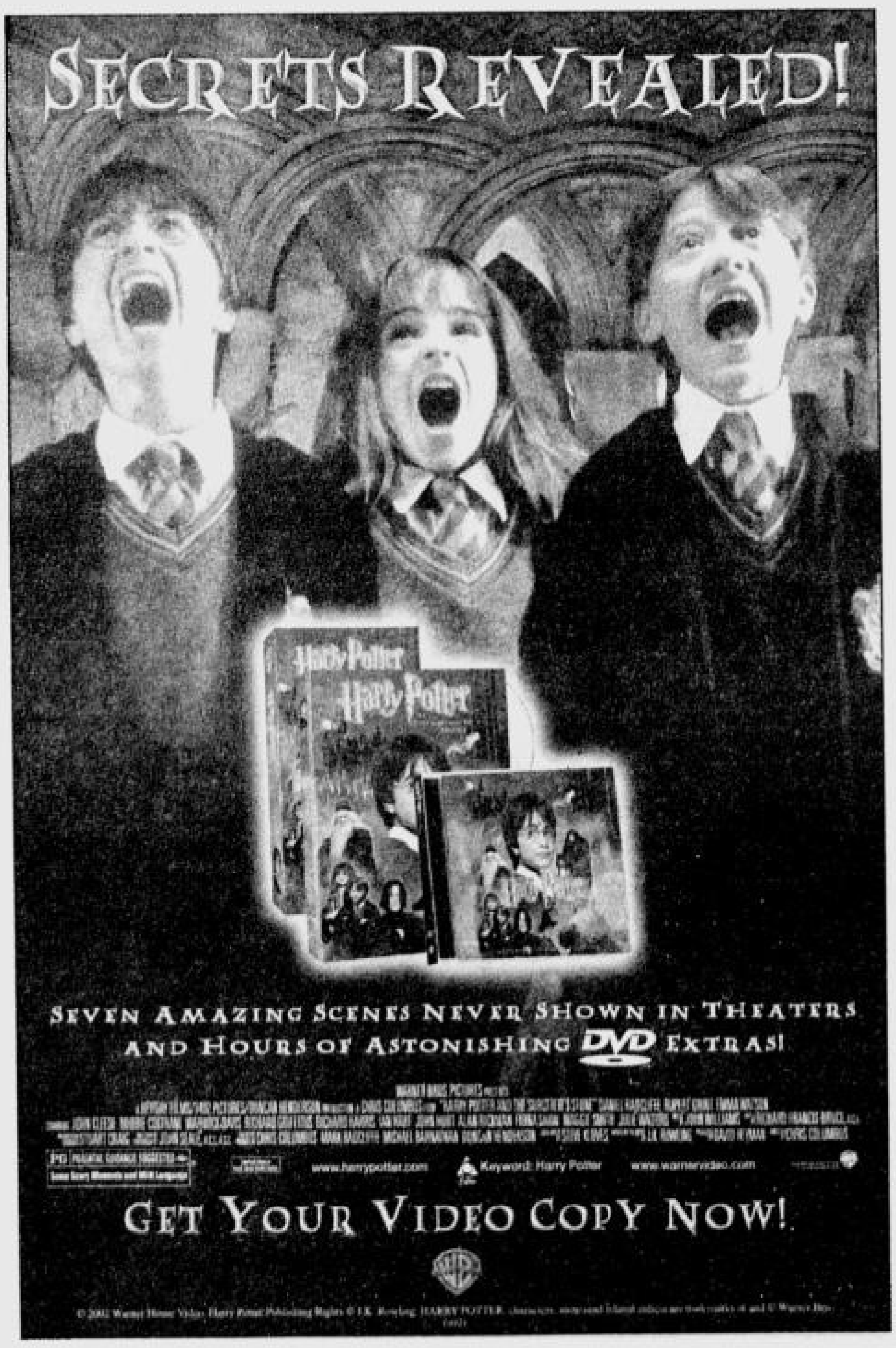
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Quiz-show errors

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

QUIZMASTER: What is the former name of Ho Chi Minh City?

Contestant: Hong Kong!

(Hong Kong, Vietnam? Where's that? The correct answer is Saigon.)

* * *

Quizmaster: What is the acronym for "Makabayang Katipunan ng mga Pilipino," a group that helped the Japanese during the Occupation?

Contestant: Hubalahap!

(No, Makapili!)

* * *

Quizmaster: What was the "Scarlett Letter" referred to in the novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne?

Contestant: P!

(No, A for Adultery or Adulterer.)

* * *

Quizmaster: What is the title of the song that has the line, "Oh, my love, my darling, I've hungered for your touch"?

Contestant: "My Love."

(No, "Unchained Melody"!)

* * *

Quizmaster: What religion was founded by the philosopher Lao Tsu?

Contestant: Confucianism!

(We're getting our philosophers "confused" here. The correct answer is Taoism.)

* * *

Quizmaster: Which Lualhati wrote the novel "Dekada Seventy"?

Contestant: Domingo!

(No, Bautista. And the novel's title is "Dekada Setenta.")

Thanks to Mr. **Loi Landicho** of Rizal Village, Makati, for this compilation.

25th anniversary show

BULWAGANG Gantimpala celebrates its 25th year with an anniversary show, "A Silver Harvest" at the CCP Main Theater on July 26. The show highlights the theater group's valuable contributions to Philippine theater—"Katipunan," "Bombita," "Hiblang Abo," "Tiktipaklong," "Bongbong at Kris," and songs from "Magsimula Ka," "Walang Ibig Sabihin" and "Awit ni Kadugnong."

The silver anniversary show will also feature a stellar lineup of theater, film and TV actors who have graced the productions of Bulwagang Gantimpala. Tributes will also be paid to the late **Rene Requiestas** and **Ray Ventura**, who performed in a number of plays presented by the theater group.

'Master Class' film workshop

OVER 540 film proposals from Asian producers and directors have been submitted to the film-making initiatives "Real Talent!" and "Asia To the World" of the National Geographic Channel and Singapore Economic Development Board Documentary Production Fund.

"Reel Talent!," which funds four young Asia-based directors to produce half-hour documentaries up to $125,000 each, attracted 268 proposals.

"Asia to the World" provides a budget for six one-hour documentaries of up to $200,000; and received 280 proposals.

Following the great response from filmmakers in the region, a National Geographic "Master Class" film workshop was organized. It provided 15 chosen filmmakers the opportunity to learn how to make National Geographic documentaries.

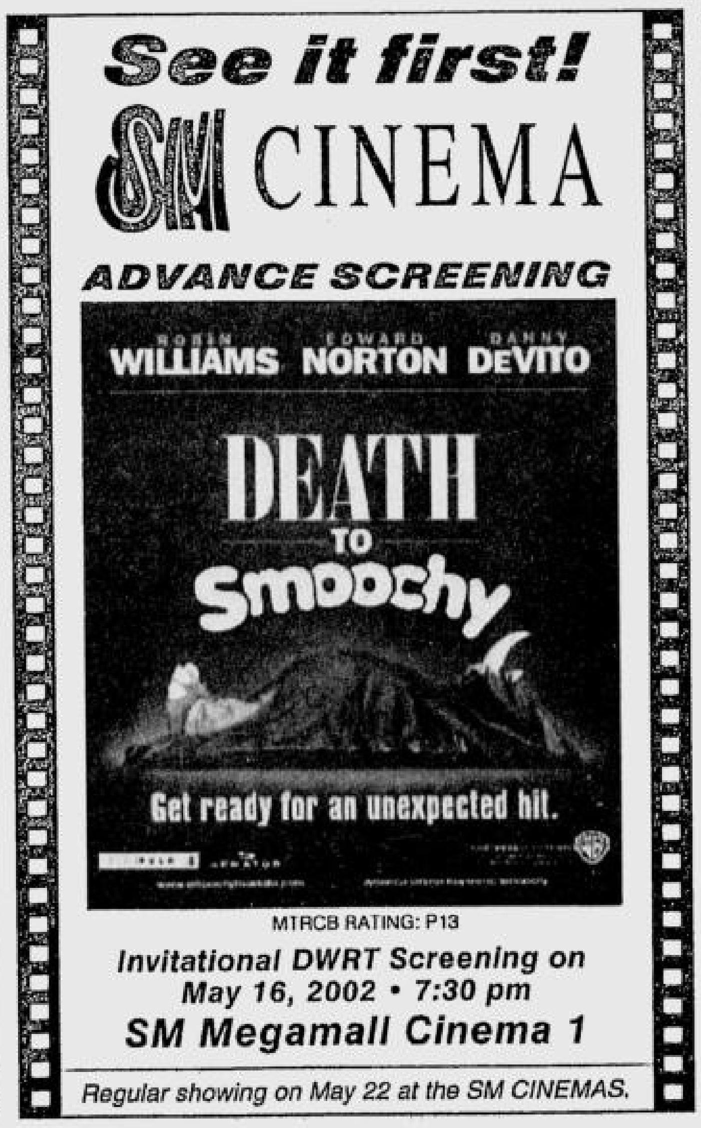
Mall tour

FOR the whole month of May, Pink & Blue Soda is hosting a mall tour, autograph and photo sessions with popular young actor and image model **Rafael Rosell**. He is being accompanied by **Kaye Abad**.

The remaining tour schedule: May 25, morning, Lucao, Dagupan City—CSI Boutique; afternoon, CSI Market Square, Magic Centerpoint, Magic Mangaldan; La Union—John John.

May 26, morning, Laoag City—5 Sisters, Specialty Shop; afternoon, El Grande; Baguio City—Tiongson or Country Mart.

May 27, morning, Baguio City—Tiongsan or Country Mart, Plaza Fair; afternoon, Tarlac—Magic Star, J Mart.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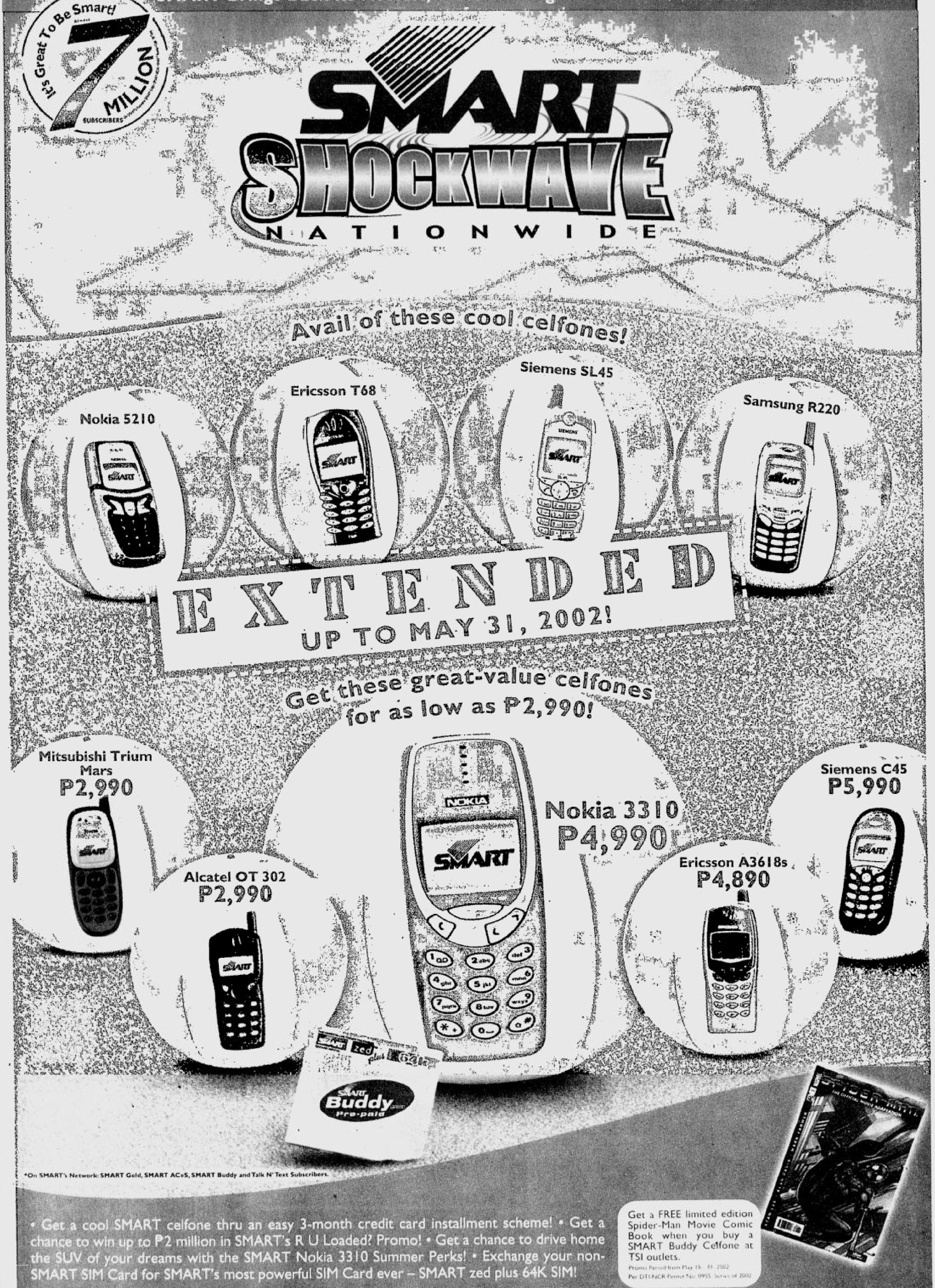

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Gov't exceeds deficit ceiling

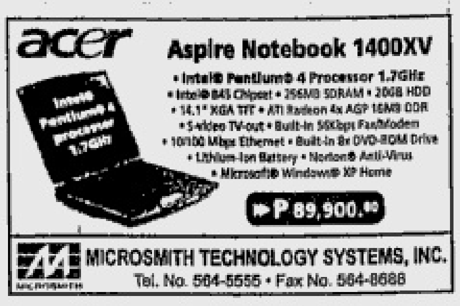
/B3

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma



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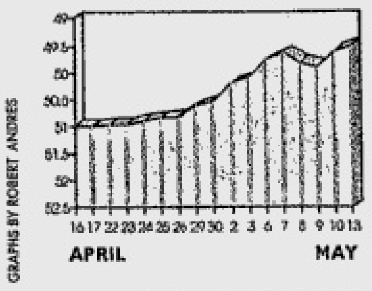
JP Morgan sees peso rallying to 48:$1

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 49.65 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 15, 2002

¥ 128.04 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 15, 2002

GOLD: $307.20/307.70

per ounce Hong Kong, May 15, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares rise 0.8%

SHARE prices rose 0.8 percent yesterday due to bargain-hunting, analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 10.12 points to close at 1,357.66.

Elline Salvatierra of KGI Securities Inc. said the market was up mostly because of bargain-hunting in some oversold issues. "But in general the market is still consolidating."

AFP

By Clarissa S. Batino

AMERICAN investment bank JP Morgan Chase and Co. yesterday projected that the peso would improve to 48 to a dollar by year's end on improvements in the global and local economies.

In a briefing with reporters yesterday, JP Morgan officials said the local currency had been "outperforming" even the bank's expectations and had improved 8 percent during the first quarter from the previous quarter based on its own currency board.

The peso closed at 49.65 to a dollar yesterday, slightly down from 49.60:$1 the previous day.

"There has been a pickup in investor appetite. The peso could probably go to 48 or near that level by year-end," said James Malcolm, a market strategist for JP Morgan.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the other day that the peso could hit 48 to $1 if other currencies in the region would also strengthen.

"The Philippines is now the star performer in the emerging markets. Philippine bonds, whether sovereign or corporate, are hot issues in the bond market," the JP Morgan official said.

Malcolm said that investors were finding it more attractive now to hedge on the peso as opposed to the time when people were betting against the local currency.

Still, Buenaventura noted that the central bank would have to balance the peso's strength with the need to support the growth of Philippine exports and the local economy.

"We have to do a balancing act to protect our exports and so that our imports won't be too expensive," the BSP chief said.

Exporters are worried that the peso's returning strength would affect their competitiveness. They said they would only remain competitive if the local currency would stabilize between 49 and 50 to a dollar but not any stronger.

JP Morgan, however, cautioned the government against the threats of the fiscal gap. The government had exceeded its first quarter deficit target by 8.275 billion at P61.208 billion. ***(See story on Page B3.)***

David Fernandez, vice president for research of JP Morgan, said the government had to explain the cause of the higher-than-projected deficit in the first three months. Otherwise, investors would be spooked.

"Investors are waiting for an explanation and if they fail, there would be a negative impact on the markets," Fernandez said.

Still, the JP Morgan officials were confident that the government would remedy the budget situation so it could still meet the full-year target of P130 billion for 2002, down from P147 billion last year.

"International Investors have started to come and more will follow if the government would continue to prove that the Philippine economy has so much to offer," said the JP Morgan official.

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*Fortune Magazine, July [illegible]

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Poor gift and forget

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

I KNEW it. Now it's clear the PPA is the fault of the economy. It was so stupid, it forgot to grow fast and big enough. And so I think we should just send this economy to jail.

At least that's the impression you get, if you are unlucky enough to listen to the boys of Kuya Eddie. They put the blame for the PPA squarely on the forgetful economy.

The PPA, as you probably know fully well by now, as a result of the coming out of a lot of politicians as experts on it, is the mysterious beast lurking in our electric bills.

Short for "purchased power adjustment," the PPA is an added feature in your electric bill every month, basically only making it . . . well, double.

The PPA is our payment for a huge amount of electricity which we actually do not use. In other words, the PPA is like a huge vacuum cleaner. It sucks.

* * *

ANYWAY, today we are all amazed at how big the PPA has actually become. Yet what do we really pay for? Well, bascially, we pay for nothing. It's also all legal.

It's legal because, during the time of Kuya Eddie and his boys, our government entered into contracts which would require us to pay for that nothing in particular.

The contracts, you see, stated that we must pay for electricity, whether we use it or not. It's a standard practice all over the world. It is called "take or pay."

The practice takes care of an inherent problem in the power generation business. And that is, electricity is not storable. Once you produce it, and nobody uses it, it is gone.

For the laws of physics do not allow man to produce huge amounts of electricity, say, just when you need it. It's the nature of electricity. It is energy.

In this business, there's no such thing as forgive and forget. No company will ever agree to turn on its power generator, which is the size of a whole city, just because you want to turn on the light to use the toilet late at night.

For if you want readily available electricity, you are forced to agree to a "take or pay." Otherwise you can always use a flashlight. Or sprinkle it all over the toilet floor!

* * *

SO the boys of Kuya Eddie entered into all those 'take or pay" contracts, because they thought the economy would grow so big and so fast, we would need all of them.

As I said, the stupid economy forgot to do its job. It did not grow as much as the boys of Kuya Eddie thought it would. And the rest, as they say, is PPA history.

Now I can understand it's just a standard practice and all that. But the thing is, our PPA is quite an expensive nothing, compared to the prices of nothing in other countries.

In other countries, their own version of the PPA is simply tucked into their electric bills. It is so small, negligible, in fact, that nobody minds it.

Here, we pay for the same nothing far, far more than people in other countries pay for a similar nothing. That's why the PPA makes us angry. It is such a burden already.

It makes us mad because, over the years, we heard a lot of horror stories about the corruption in our beloved Napocor. It's not just because of bad economic luck.

* * *

AS a hobby, for instance, Napocor officials love to pass the blame for the PPA to Meralco. One is a certain Asisclo Gonzaga, and I'm even sure of the spelling of his name.

Asisclo is the president of National Transmission Co., which is a spin-off firm from Napocor, taking care of . . . well, what else, the miserable transmission business.

The real culprit in the PPA, according to Asisclo, was Meralco. He said Meralco entered into too many contracts for too much power. Thus there was an oversupply.

Is that so? The last time I checked, which was yesterday, Napocor had some 40 contracts for power supply, while Meralco had only two contracts.

I am not a mathematician, but based on my little understanding of simple arithmetic, I am willing to bet my neighbor's wife that 40 is a far greater than two.

Just imagine how many signatures those 40 contracts would have required, say, if you were following up papers in Napocor! Just try to imagine that!

* * *

THOSE two plants of Meralco are the so-called Sta. Rita and the San Lorenzo power plants. They use natural gas from Malampaya. Their combined capacity is 1,500 megawatts.

Whadayano, according to Asisclo, the oversupply of electricity is exactly 1,500 megawatts. That is all true. Only, Asisclo forgot to say something else.

And that is, as a gift to the poor Filipino public, Napocor built a similar plant, the so-called Ilijan plant, which uses the same natural gas from Malampaya.

The government itself, during the time of Kuya Eddie, set specific timetable for Meralco to complete its two gas power plants. Meralco had to hurry or else . . .

For Napocor, there was no such pressure. Thus it was late. And so it insisted on building the Ilijan plant, just in time for, well, when it was already clear we would have an oversupply of electricity. And that's just bad economic luck?

* * *

SO now we are paying for the folly of Napocor. And it hurts. The PPA is huge. Moreover, it is big. On top of that, it is large. Who said size doesn't matter?

The PPA gets us incensed and all, only because it is becoming such a burden. It doubles our bills, alright? It's so big, it hurts, and we're not even PPA virgins anymore.

And how did we get into this mess? If you believe guys in Napocor like the unbelievably named Asisclo, it was the fault of Meralco, and not Napocor.

Thing is, all this PPA mess was only revealed to the public, because we are trying to implement the power sector reform law. It is supposed to put the mess in order.

In that law, there is one basic concept. And that is, we have to eliminate Napocor from the face of the earth. Again, it's Napocor. We want to get rid of Napocor. So now whose fault do you think it is?

Benpres to sell stake in toll road affiliate

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LOPEZES' Benpres Holdings Corp. plans to give up its controlling stake in First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp. (FPIDC)—owner of the toll road unit undertaking the $500-million North Luzon Expressway rehabilitation—in favor of either cash-rich subsidiary First Philippine Holdings Corp. or a new investor.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Benpres said FPH had indicated its intention to increase its stake in their 70-30 joint venture FPIDC, the infrastructure arm that owns 60 percent of the Manila North Tollways Corp.

The remaining stake in MNTC is controlled by Egis Projects S.A. (20 percent) and Philippine National Construction Corp. (20 percent).

The Benpres disclosure said it was in "preliminary discussions" with FPH, which, for its part, was now undertaking legal and financial due-diligence on the possible increase in stake in FPIDC.

"Benpres, for its part, is carefully studying its options, including a possible sell-down to a strategic and/or financial investor or the disposition of its stake in FPIDC to FPH as part of its balance sheet management," the disclosure said.

Industry sources said MNTC would issue a call for additional capital soon but Benpres was set to waive its preemptive rights because of its debt woes. Instead, they said the right to subscribe would be assigned to FPH, which, however, will still have to raise the needed funds.

The sources said FPH would have to secure funding not only to cover the capital call from MNTC but to settle this year's maturing debts, including a $75-million syndicated loan and P800 million in long-term commercial papers (LTCP). On top of these, about $74 million in convertible notes are due for redemption in August.

The 83.7-km North Luzon Expressway project was awarded to MNTC on a rehabilitate-operate-transfer basis under a concession period ending 2030, after which the operation will revert to the government. MNTC, for its part, will rehabilitate and expand the highly congested expressway.

Aside from rebuilding the expressway, FPH expects to get good returns from the project within a year after it takes over commercial operations by 2004.

PSE urges Court of Appeals to junk ISMI suit

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has asked the Court of Appeals to junk the petition filed by one of its directors, veteran stockbroker Robert Coyiuto Jr., that sought to block the exemption of dormant mining firm Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc. from its listing rules.

In a petition filed with the appellate court on May 13, the PSE said the order from the Securities and Exchange Commission being challenged by Coyiuto "can not be considered as interference with the corporate rights of the PSE."

The petition said Coyiuto's "pretenses of grave and irreparable injury" were without basis and likewise noted that there was no reason to justify a derivative suit.

"A corporation's right to sue is correlative to its right not to sue. Unless an equitable basis for intervention is shown, an individual stockholder has no more right to challenge by a derivative suit a decision of the board not to sue a third person than to so challenge any other decision of the board," the PSE petition said.

The PSE backed the SEC's contention that the application of the guidelines insisted by Coyiuto would "discourage the infusion of fresh capital into a dormant corporation by interested non-related investors and deprive existing investors, including minority stockholders of the opportunity to resurrect ISMI."

The petition said the PSE directors represented all the stockholders and were presumed to act honestly and according to their best judgment for the interests of all.

A 71-page petition filed by Coyiuto on April 25 sought a temporary restraint order on PSE Inc., his 14 fellow directors in the PSE board and ISMI from implementing a directive from the SEC that favored such exemption.

The SEC overruled with finality the decision of the previous PSE board to disallow the listing of additional ISMI shares relating to the buy-in of technology holding firm Philweb.com. It argued that the PSE had "exceeded its discretion" by refusing to grant cash-strapped ISMI exemption from a requirement to undertake a stock rights offering prior to the sale of shares to a new investor.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BID AND AWARD COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS) of the Department of Budget and Management invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of RUBBER SHOES for the PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE.

The estimated budget for the purchase of 15,400 pairs rubber shoes to be bid is P17,740,800.00. The bid documents will be available for issuance at the PS-Purchasing Division starting May 16, 2002.

All interested parties are required to attend the Pre-bid Conference that will be held on May 28, 2002, 10:00 AM at the PS Conference Room, Second Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal Street, Paco, Manila.

Interested suppliers/bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC SECRETARIAT, Procurement Service, Cristobal Street, Paco, Manila. Deadline for submission of Eligibility and Bid Documents will be on June 13, 2002 at 2:00 PM.

For more information, please call the PS-Purchasing Division at telephone nos. 563-9374 or 563-9402.

The PS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect therein and may accept the bid which is most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman

(PDI – May 16 & 23, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN
Tuguegarao City
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Cagayan, through the Provincial Bids and Awards Committee, invites all interested parties to prequalify and to submit bid proposals for the supply and delivery of fifteen (15) units different kinds of vehicle to the Provincial Government of Cagayan, intended for CAR ACQUISITION PLAN.

ITEM NO.	QTY.	UNIT	PARTICULAR/MODEL
1.	-4-	unit	TOYOTA VAN HI-ACE GRANDIA (MODEL 1998 or later)
2.	-1-	unit	TOYOTA VAN (latest model/4x4)
3.	-1-	unit	HYUNDAI STAREX (MODEL 1999-2000)
4.	-4-	unit	TOYOTA PICK-UP (Model 1998 or later)
5.	-1-	unit	ISUZU PICK-UP (FUEGO) Model 1998 or later
6.	-1-	unit	NISSAN PICK-UP (FRONTIER) Model 1998 or later
7.	-1-	unit	TOYOTA PICK-UP, SURPLUS (IMPORTED 1992)
8.	-1-	unit	NISSAN TERRANO (4X4) EXECUTIVE SERIES 1998 or later
9.	-1-	unit	TOYOTA REVO DLX GAS (1999 Model, second hand, color green)

Specification and bid forms may be secured from the General Services Office, Capitol Hills, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, from May 15 to 21, 2002, upon payment of a non-refundable deposit of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

Interested bidders should be pre-qualified. A pre-bid meeting will be held at 9:30 AM at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan to thresh out some important aspects of the bidding.

Sealed bid proposals must be submitted to the Provincial Bids and Awards Committee not later than 9:30 AM on May 28 and publicly opened at 9:30 AM. At the same date and address.

The Provincial Government reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids, waive any defects or formalities therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Provincial Government.

(Sgd.) EDGAR RAMONES LARA
Governor
Chairman, Provincial Committee on Bids & Awards

(PDI – May 14, 15 & 16, 2002)

Lucio Co gains control of Alcorn

THE PUREGOLD group of retailer Lucio Co is finally pushing through with its backdoor listing on the Philippine Stock Exchange after getting clearance for its P575-million private placement to gain 64.84 percent of Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.

PSE senior vice president Jose Cervantes yesterday said in a circular to brokers that no additional requirements were needed to allow the listing of the 57.5 billion additional shares to be issued to the Puregold group at a par value of one centavo each.

"The proceeds from the rights offering shall be used to finance the investment and expansion of Puregold's retailing business," AGRC disclosed yesterday.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, May 15, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	58.5	55.5	56	942,600
China Banking Corp.	625	625	625	625	1,100
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	37.5	38	37.5	38	65,300
First E-Bank Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.8	1.82	217,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39.5	40	39.5	39.5	120,500
Philippine National Bank	39.5	41	39.5	41	179,200
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	28	28	3,400
Security Bank Corp.	16	16	16	16	154,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	23	23.25	23	23	42,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	24,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1450	1450	1450	1450	10
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1070	1075	1070	1070	1,310
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	600
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.6	3,710,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	680	690	680	690	25,570
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.038	0.038	2,500,000
Piltel	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	200,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	460	462.5	457.5	460	86,360
Ivantage Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	10,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.018	0.018	0.016	0.017	56,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	26	26	25.5	25.5	33,900
Manila Electric Co. B	39.5	39.5	38	38.5	200,700
Petron Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.68	1.7	9,982,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.85	2.65	2.85	4,128,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.65	0.7	0.65	0.7	20,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.08	2.1	2.08	2.1	32,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	210,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4	4	3	3	2,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	483,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.67	0.71	0.67	0.71	3,650,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	25,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	2,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	132,500
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	19	19	19	19	100,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	34	35	33.5	35	3,401,300
RFM Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	86,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49.5	50	49	50	160,500
San Miguel Corp. B	58	58	56.5	57.5	268,900
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6	6	6	6	903,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.42	2.32	2.36	978,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.22	0.235	2,340,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	40,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	32,000,000
Anglo Phil. Holdings Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	6,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.59	1,260,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	400,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	12,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	600,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	27	27	27	27	55,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	430,000
Ionics Inc.	7.2	7.3	7	7.2	78,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	200,000
Medco Holdings	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.79	0.8	0.79	0.8	2,340,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.56	0.56	470,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	580,000
Music Corp.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.24	520,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.78	310,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	890,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.1	1,790,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	1,500,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	240,000
Manila Jockey Club	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	2,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	31.5	31.5	31	31.5	1,793,300
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	775	775	775	775	250
Equitable PCI Bank-War	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	50,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	800	810	800	810	15,320
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	77,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	1,600
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	14,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	10,215,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	50,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	900,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.9	1,767,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	80,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6.1	11,193,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.041	1,600,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	1,140,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	55,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0034	0.0034	12,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0034	0.0034	22,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	420,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,752,920	73,443,180.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	150,675,200	333,731,560.00
PRO	24,305,000	146,207,950.00
Mining	57,740,000	525,300.00
OIL	40,420,000	214,800.00
GRAND TOTALS:	274,893,120	554,122,790.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	542.19	UP 6.73
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,856.57	UP 6.27
PRO	609.16	UP 7.34
Mining	1,323.21	DOWN 15.26
OIL	1.28	DOWN 0.03
All Shares Index	757.92	UP 0.07
Composite	1,357.66	UP 10.12

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22; NO. OF DECLINES: 41; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 39; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 102; NO. OF TRADES: 1,784

CURRENCIES

May 15, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.107420	1.000000	49.5680
Japan	Yen	0.008617	0.007781	0.3857
United Kingdom	Pound	1.605537	1.449800	71.8637
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141997	0.128223	6.3558
Switzerland	Franc	0.686347	0.619771	30.7208
Canada	Dollar	0.710659	0.641725	31.8090
Singapore	Dollar	0.612511	0.553097	27.4159
Australia	Dollar	0.604817	0.546150	27.0716
Bahrain	Dinar	2.937609	2.652661	131.4871
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.295312	0.266667	13.2181
Brunei	Dollar	0.612782	0.553342	27.4281
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000120	0.000108	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.025844	0.023337	1.1568
UAE	Dirham	0.301551	0.272301	13.4974
Korea	Won	0.000873	0.000788	0.0391
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.903000	44.7599
Brazil	Real	0.440151	0.397456	19.7011
Denmark	Kroner	0.133494	0.121448	6.0199
India	Rupee	0.022638	0.020442	1.0133
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.201465	0.263193	13.0460
Mexico	New Peso	0.116816	0.105485	5.2287
New Zealand	Dollar	0.503991	0.455104	22.5586
Norway	Kroner	0.132382	0.119541	5.9254
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018473	0.016681	0.8268
South Africa	Rand	0.109430	0.098815	4.8981
Sweden	Kroner	0.108156	0.097665	4.8411
Syria	Pound	0.025341	0.022883	1.1343
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032117	0.029002	1.4376
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001107	0.001000	0.0496

BOOK ON CORPORATE ASIA LAUNCHED
Brendan Berne, director of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade economic analytical unit, presents a copy of "Changing Corporate Asia: What Business Needs To Know" to Dr. Jesus Estanislao, president and CEO of Institute of Corporate Directors, during the launch of the book held at the Australia Center, Makati City. Looking on is Tony Melville, Charge d'Affaires of the Australian Embassy.

Gov't exceeds deficit ceiling

By Clarissa S. Batino

WEAK revenues in the first three months of the year pushed the government's budget deficit to P61.208 billion, overshooting the target by 15.64 percent and the year-ago figure by 61.4 percent.

"The government is in for a tough year," a bank economist warned in an interview.

The first-quarter deficit already accounts for nearly half the government's full-year target, David Fernandez, vice president for research of JP Morgan Chase & Co., said.

The deficit target was set at P52.93 billion for the quarter, equivalent to 40.6 percent of the estimated deficit for 2002.

The Department of Finance reported that government revenues in the first three months of the year stood at P125.12 billion, falling short of the target of P136.688 billion.

Spending, meanwhile, was P2.293 billion lower than the target at P186.328 billion, as the government stepped up payments.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said although missing its first-quarter target, the government would keep its deficit within the P130 billion programmed for the full year.

Local financial markets have been jittery that not meeting the budget deficit target—a touchstone of confidence in the government—will unnerve foreign investors.

"It's the first data for the year, and the result is not good. One year does not make a trend. They have to remain committed to the fiscal target," JP Morgan's Fernandez said.

The government has said it has deliberately front-loaded spending in the first and second quarters of the year to boost the economy.

Last week, Camacho said the government was likely to have missed the target due to revenue shortfalls. He said a sharp drop in interest rates, while reducing debt-servicing costs, had worked against the government in the first quarter by reducing the amount of withholding tax collected on interest income.

The internal revenue and customs bureaus' poor collections are being blamed for the higher-than-expected deficit in the first quarter.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING

TO ALL SHAREHOLDERS:

Please be informed that the Annual Shareholders' Meeting of **LORENZO SHIPPING CORPORATION ("LSC")** shall be held at Dusit Hotel, EDSA corner Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City, on Wednesday, 29 May 2002, at 9:00 o'clock in the morning, for the following purposes:

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Notice and Quorum
3. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Shareholders' Meeting held on 16 May 2001
4. Management Report
5. Approval of Audited Financial Statements as of 31 December 2001
6. Ratification of all acts, resolutions and proceedings of the Board of Directors and of Management, done in the ordinary course of business as of 27 May 2002
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditors
9. Other matters
10. Adjournment

The Board of Directors of LSC has fixed the RECORD DATE for stockholders entitled to vote at this annual meeting to be on 26 April 2002.

Stockholders who will not be able to attend the meeting may designate their respective proxies and send the proxy forms to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 21 May 2002.

Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. on the scheduled meeting. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please have some form of identification such as your Professional I.D., Passport, or Driver's License.

Very truly yours,

ARSENIO C. CABRERA, JR.
Corporate Secretary

Neda proposes acceleration of services sector liberalization

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority is pushing for the accelerated liberalization of the services sector in the Asean, where the agency believes the Philippines has an edge over its neighbors.

In a speech during a forum sponsored by the Philippine Exporters Federation and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Neda Director Brenda Mendoza noted that the Philippines has been slow in making commitments to the Asean Framework Agreement on Services (Afas).

Mendoza said that of the 21 common subsectors identified for liberalization, the Philippines made commitments only in seven areas. These were selling and marketing of air transport services; accounting, auditing and bookkeeping services; engineering services; data and message transmission services; hotel lodging services; meal serving services with full restaurant services, and beverage serving services without entertainment.

All of these commitments were made in the first two rounds of negotiations in December 1998. Mendoza said the Philippines has yet to comply with the commitments in the second round.

She said the country has the comparative advantage in the provision of services and that the government would support efforts to hasten the liberalization of the services sector.

Mendoza said that the Philippines was neither the laggard nor the pacesetter in making commitments to the service sector liberalization. "A decision must be made on whether the country should improve or increase its commitments under the Afas.

Under the Afas, members will enter into negotiations of specific commitments on market access, national treatment and additional commitments covering all services sectors and all modes of supply.

Members will liberalize trade in services in a substantial number of sectors within a reasonable time frame by eliminating substantially all existing discriminatory measures and market access limitations among member states and prohibiting new barriers.

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
National Capital Judicial Region
Branch 117, Pasay City

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARATION OF INSOLVENCY OF MERCEDES CHUA DOING BUSINESS UNDER TH NAME AND STYLE OF 'BENISON MOTORS'

SP. PROC. NO. 02-0017

MERCEDES CHUA,
Petitioner

ORDER

A verified petition has been filed by *MERCEDES CHUA*, praying that upon filing the petition, an order be issued declaring her as an insolvent person. It appearing that the petition is sufficient in form and substance, petitioner Mercedes Chua is hereby declared *INSOLVENT*.

Accordingly, Sheriff Reynaldo Mulat is hereby directed to take possession of, and safely keep until the appointment of a receiver or assignee, all the deeds, vouchers, books of account, papers, notes, bonds, bills and securities of the petitioner and all her real and personal property, estate and effects, except such as may be by law exempt from execution.

Payment to the petitioner of any depts due to her and the delivery to the petitioner, or any person acting for her, of any property belonging to her, and the transfer of any property by her, is hereby prohibited.

A meeting of all creditors for the purpose of choosing assignee of the estate will be held on 3 June 2002 at 2:00 O'clock in the afternoon at the courtroom of this branch.

Let this order be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer for three (3) consecutive weeks before 3 June 2002.

SO ORDERED.

Given in chambers, this 18th day of April 2002, Pasay City, Metro Manila

HENRICK F. GINGOYON
Judge

PNB cuts Q1 losses to ₱783M

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE National Bank posted a net loss of P783 million in the first quarter of this year. The amount was, however, much lower than the P2.01 billion in losses incurred in the same period last year.

PNB president and chief executive Lorenzo Tan had estimated that the bank would substantially reduce its net loss during the quarter in view of the sale of several foreclosed assets during the period.

PNB, which posted a net loss of roughly P4.5 billion last year, aims to reduce its full-year net loss to P2.7 billion this year through the aggressive sale of bad assets and by further enhancing the strength of its strong remittance business.

The government and tobacco magnate Lucio Tan earlier this month signed an agreement paving the way for the rehabilitation of PNB through the settlement, restructuring and conversion into equity of P23.9 billion in loans from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilpinas and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Equitable profit hits ₱120.6M

EQUITABLE PCI Bank has reported a P120.6-million net income in the first quarter of the year which compares favorably with the P140-million net income the bank earned for the whole of last year.

Equitable PCI's first-quarter income further reinforces the bank's turnaround which was manifested when Equitable PCI Bank completed in record time its payment of the liquidity facility extended by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last year.

"This year, Equitable PCI Bank is back on the path toward greater profitability. We expect a stronger performance for the bank," the bank said in a statement.

Officials said the bank's recovery of low-cost deposits, growth in lending, improvement in asset quality, and the improving outlook in the country's economy augur well for the bank's improved financial performance.

Union Cement nets ₱200M

UNION Cement Corp. yesterday said its first-quarter profit hit P200.03 million, up from P89.7 million in the same period last year.

UCC, partly owned by Swiss cement giant Holcim, said in a statement submitted to the Philippine Stock Exchange that its net sales in the same period amounted to P2.02 billion.

Francis Felizardo, UCC senior vice president, attributed the improved profitability of the company to the safeguard measures installed by the government as well as the production improvements that led to cost reduction and the firm's aggressive marketing efforts.

SM sees sustainable growth

SM Prime Holdings Inc., the country's largest mall developer, said its first-quarter profit rose 11.1 percent to P1 billion and analysts said the growth was sustainable.

"It's in line with expectations and this is why fund managers love SM Prime . . . mainly because its earnings growth is very much predictable," said Mike Ordinanza, an analyst at PCI Securities.

SM Prime, which has developed 12 malls across the country, said that last year's first-quarter profit was P901 million.

Total revenues grew 12 percent to P1.85 billion, of which rental revenues grew 13 percent to P1.46 billion.

Analysts are expecting that SM Prime's full year profit will increase by 13.7 percent to P3.957 billion, according to Multex Global Estimates.

"The company has a budget of P6 billion yearly for the next three years for mall construction and additional land acquisition," SM Prime said.

JG Summit's profit down

JG Summit Holdings Inc. of the Gokongwei family reported yesterday that its net income for the first quarter fell 14.6 percent to P590.1 million from P691.3 million in the same period last year. This was due largely to unfavorable results in some of its businesses and higher interest charges on borrowings.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, JG Summit said that its food, telecommunications and airline businesses posted increases in profits during the quarter. However, its property, textile and petrochemical ventures registered decline in earnings.

The group's consolidated revenue in the quarter rose 24.7 percent to P11.73 billion from last year's first-quarter figure of P9.40 billion. However, operating expenses increased by 5.3 percent to P2.95 billion while interest and financing charges grew 27.3 percent to P1.37 billion.

ICTSI netted ₱1.89B in Q1

PORT operator International Container Terminal Services yesterday announced a net profit of P1.89 billion in the first quarter of the year, a reversal of the P16.7 million net loss incurred in the same period last year. In a statement, ICTSI said that it booked an extraordinary, non-recurring gain of P1.67 billion in the first quarter of this year from the partial sale of its preferred shares in International Container Terminal Holdings Inc. to a subsidiary of Hong Kong-based Hutchison International Ports Holdings Ltd.

Its consolidated gross revenue in the first quarter rose 6 percent to P1.1 billion from P1 billion in the same months last year (excluding ICTHI).

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THE INSURANCE AND SURETY ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
ACKNOWLEDGES AND APPLAUDS
THE STATESMANSHIP OF LTO CHIEF GEN. RCBERTO LASTIMOSO

- For taking the initiative to meet with ISAP officers, the heads of DMI and Cyberlink, and the group of 22 insurers actively engaged in the CTPL business.
- For hearing with an open mind all the suggestions that were made by all parties in attendance and allowing a clear and open discussion of the issues.
- For deciding to grant ISAP a one week extension to come up with a proposal on the details of the appropriate sole authentication facility that will service the entire insurance industry.
- For voluntarily suspending the effectivity of LTO Circulars dated April 22 and April 30, 2002 regarding this matter.

We applaud the manner in which you have handled this matter, and your plight to eliminate the proliferation of fake motor insurance policies.

As promised, within this week, ISAP will provide the final details of the ISAP authentication facility and the time frame for the roll out of the project.

Truly, the annual issuance of about 2.8 Million fake COC's deprives the government of much needed revenue and gives the motoring public a false sense of security. Only the committed and genuine partnership of LTO and the insurance industry can resolve this problem. We share your commitment to resolve the matter with the best interests of the insuring public and the government mind.

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IGNACIO B. ONG
Vice President

HONORIO J. RAMAJO
Corporate Secretary

TESS S. VALERIANO
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Assistant Treasurer

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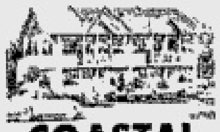

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Market Determined Pricing 2,975 MT (59,500 BAGS) more or less Calrose Rice Variety, Grade No. 1, at the indicative price of:

a. Ex-Warehouse Php P22.00/kg or P1,100/bag

on **May 23** and **29, 2002** at 10:00 AM at the NFA Penthouse, 101 Matimyas Building, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

A pre-bidding conference shall be held on **May 21** and **27, 2002** at 10:00 AM at the NFA Penthouse. In the pre-auction, interested bidders shall bring the following:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling).
b. Duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.

All interested bidders shall submit a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of cash, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check from any reputable banks in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting **May 20, 2002** at DMO OCD, 5th Floor from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. For any inquiries, please call tel. nos. 712-1572 and 712-1708.

Bidding documents will be available on **May 20, 2002** to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. In case of bidding failure, a pre-bidding/re-bidding shall be conducted at 10:00 AM at NFA Boardroom on **May 27** and **29, 2002**, respectively.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI – May 16 & 17, 2002)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

Twelfth Offering

The National Housing Authority (NHA) is accepting bids for the sale of eighty three (83) residential lots in Monterrazas Village, Brgy. Tuding, Itogon, Benguet with areas ranging from 283 to 901 square meters and base prices ranging from P350.00 to P4,500.00 per square meter under credit terms.

Interested parties may secure the bid documents for a non-refundable fee of P200.00 from the NHA Project Office located at the D'Castellamonte Bldg., No. 12 Otek St., Baguio City.

SCHEDULE: The submission of the Pre-qualification requirements will be received during office hours from **May 16, 2002** to **June 19, 2002**. A pre-bid conference will be held on **June 13, 2002** at 2:00 p.m. Sealed offers will be received from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on **June 20, 2002** which will be opened at 2:00 p.m. of the same day. All transactions will be held/entertained at the NHA Baguio Project Office.

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, call off this tender prior to bid acceptance and call for new tender under amended rules, as may be deemed advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN**
General Manager

(PDI - May 16, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JUDE O. Holy St. Jude Apostle and martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present, urgent petition (make your request). In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eight day your prayers will be answered, for this prayer has never known to fail. Please don't forget to publish this once your wish is granted.-M.M.J.r.

PRAYER TO HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen.

Person must pray this 3 consecutive days without stating one's wish. After 3rd day Your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be.

Promise to publish this soon as your favor has been granted.-JL

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
Regional Office No. 7, Mandaue City, Cebu

EDWIN GELIG
Applicant/s

CASE NO. 07-02-1521

NOTICE

Applicant request authority to operate a TH service for the transportation of freight only: WITHIN CEBU CITY AND WHOLE PHILIPPINES with the use of one (1) unit and to charge the rate authorized by the Board for this type of services.

This application will be considered by the Regional Board on **May 21, 2002** at 9:00 AM at its office, Second Floor, Victor Yap Building, Wireless, Mandaue City on which date applicant/s shall formally submit his/her evidence.

At least five (5) days prior on the above date applicant/s shall publish this Notice in one (1) newspaper of general circulation in Cebu/Visayas and served by registered mail, copy of the application and this Notice to all operators affected, as appearing in the attached list.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application, must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date furnishing a copy of the same applicant/s and if they so desire to appear on said date and time.

This application shall be acted upon by the Board on the basis of its record, and the documentary evidence submitted by parties, unless the Board deem it necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.

WITNESS, the HON. BENITO S. DY-CEZAR, JR., CESO V, Regional Director, this **23rd day of April, 2002**.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. EVELYN CARMELITA G. MISAL**
Hearing Officer IV

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JOSE DOUGLAS R. SANSON**
CTDO

(PDI -- May 16, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 48, MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF THE:
ADOPTION OF THE CHILD
HANZ CHRISTIAN DELA ROSA

SPEC. PROC. NO. 01-102039

MANUEL A. PARSARIO and
ROSA MARIA R. DELA ROSA,
Petitioners

ORDER

In a verified Petition dated 8 October 2001, the above-named spouses-petitioners pray that after due notice, publication and hearing, the minor, Hanz Christian Dela Rosa, be declared as their legally adopted child.

It is alleged in the petition that petitioners has all the qualification and none of the disqualification provided by law to adopt the minor, Hanz Christian Dela Rosa, considering the said child is very close relative by consanguinity within the third civil degree of the petitioner Manuel and Rosa Maria Parsario, and the petitioners financial, economic, physical, moral, spiritual, and other assets to support, rear, care and educate the children is more than enough, sufficient, secured to be utilized for the benefit of the said child. The said minor is the illegitimate child of Racquel D. Dela Rosa, who expressly and voluntarily gave her parental consent and conformity to the adoption of the said child by petitioners.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the Court sets the hearing of this case on 14 June 2002 at 8:30 in the morning at the Regional Trial Court, Branch 48, Manila. All interested parties are hereby ordered to appear on the said date, time and place to offer their opposition or show cause why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks such that the last publication shall not be later than 01 June 2002 or at least two (2) weeks before the date of hearing.

Let a copy of this Order as well as the Petition and its annexes be furnished the Office of the Solicitor General and the Department of Social Welfare and Development and for their respective representative to appear on the said date and time of hearing. The latter office is hereby ordered to conduct a case study report on the petitioners and the minors and to submit the said report on or before the date of hearing.

IT IS SO ORDERED.
Manila, 02 May 2002.

NIMFA CUESTA VILCHES
Judge

(PDI–May 9, 16 & 23, 2002)

People, Events & Products
Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Biggest assembly of gift items slated at World Trade Center

THE COUNTRY will have its biggest assembly of corporate giveaways and gift items five months ahead of the Christmas season.

The bustling activity, dubbed "Corporate Giveaways 2002", will be held at the World Trade Center Metro Manila from July 3 to 6.

Corporate Giveaways 2002 is the country's premier buyers' show on business gifts, premiums promotional ideas, and merchandise incentives, attracting hundreds of exhibitors and hundreds of thousands of visitors annually.

Now on its 14th year, the four-day event will match gift suppliers, manufacturers and importers with corporate buyers, enabling them to transact business for the year-round giveaways way ahead of the Christmas rush.

This innovative marketing show consequently cuts a great deal of sales time and guarantees fast returns on investment.

"That's because at the Corporate Giveaways buyers' show, the customer comes to you," said Lynn Romero, president of Worldexco, the event organizer.

Worldexco's market database and its aggressive promotional campaign have succeeded in reaching over 100,000 buyers through the years.

The event also enables exhibitors to launch new products and ideas to a readily receptive market, touch base with thousands of top-management executives in search of various giveaways, market their companies and promote various products and services directly, and establish a vast network of potential clients on a national and international scale.

Inquiries and reservations can be made with Worldexco at 891-8638, 834-7408, fax 834-0608, or e-mail mktg@worldexco.com. Visit www.worldexco.com.

Corporate Giveaways also features "How-To" seminars on various interesting topics, a "Bargain Center" to enable visitors to shop for items at retail prices, Loyalty Awards for exhibitors with at least 10 years of participation in this annual event, and Excellence Awards for exhibitors that exemplify excellence in any of 9 categories: breakables, fabric, food and beverage packing, indigenous, leather, metal, paper, synthetic, and wood.

ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION
COMMERCIAL CENTERS DIVISION
APRIL 3, 2002, WEDNESDAY, 10:30 am VENDING SHOWROOM, NESTLE CENTER
Nestle FoodServices

ROBINSONS FOOD COURTS TAKE THE PLUNGE

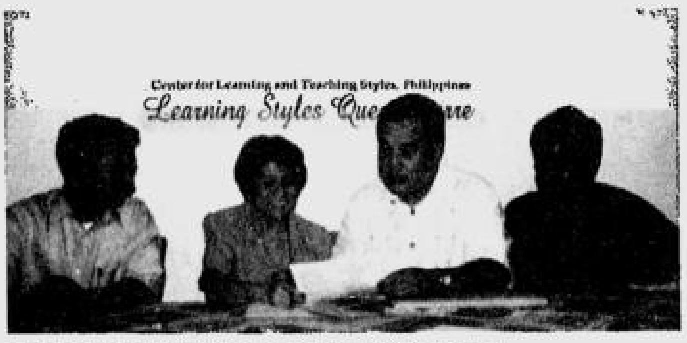
Robinsons Land Corp., operator of the Robinsons chain of shopping malls, recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the Nestle FoodServices unit, appointing Nestea as the official iced tea in all Robinsons Food Courts. With this agreement in place, Nestea will be giving creative and logistical support for marketing activities to conducted in all 9 Robinsons Food Courts around the Philippines. Shown at the contract signing are (from left) Alex Ong Oh, AVP for FoodServices beveraging and vending, Manny Parroco, SVP for FoodServices, Yves Manghardt, EVP for marketing and sales, Tommy Lee O, Robinsons Land VP for complex administration, Eunice Gonzales, Robinsons ad and promo director, and Chita Roque, Nestle AVP for field operations.

GLOBAL HOLIDAY CLUB AT BORACAY

The Global Holiday Club affiliation agreement between Global Holiday Ownership Corp. and Pearl of Boracay Inc. (PBI), owner of the Pearl of the Pacific-Boracay, was recently signed at the GHOC office in Makati City. Shown at the signing are (from left) Bernardo A. Gamboa, GHOC vice president for sales, Albert T. Sanson, PBI VP for marketing and operations, Pete Diomampo, GHOC president, and Maria Theresa B. Suarez, GHOC vice president for sales.

NAVY'S 104TH ANNIVERSARY BEGINS

Philippine Navy's Flag Officer in Command Vice Admiral Victorino S. Hingco has begun his area visits to formally launch preparations for the Philippine Navy's 104th anniversary scheduled on May 18. This is highlighted by a visit to Navy personnel manning the Tubbataha Reef ranger station. He said it has been a tradition in the Philippine Navy for its Flag Officer in Command to personally extend appreciation for a job well done of his men, women and civilian employees assigned to various isolated parts of the country before its founding anniversary. The Navy chief also met with Kalayaan Mayor Rosendo Mantes and discussed measures to protect the rich marine resources in the area and promote the Kalayaan Islands Group as an eco-tourism site for nature lovers. The Navy chief ordered the immediate upgrading of barracks and the installation of satellite communications facilities in the area. The Philippine Navy's theme this year is 'The Naval Service: Assuring Maritime Security for Peace and Progress.'


Center for Learning and Teaching Styles, Philippines
Learning Styles Que

LEARNING STYLES QUESTIONNAIRE

The Center for Learning and Teaching Styles Philippines will launch the Learning Styles Questionnaire (LSQ) on May 15 at the Westin Philippine Plaza. The LSQ, which was developed by Dr. Rita Dunn, is a product of decades of research. It shows how children learn most easily and how to create an environment best suited to their learning needs. Shown is Henry Tenedero (CLTS president) explaining the format of LSQ to Dr. Leticia Azusano, a leading expert in the field of testing, as CLTS programming consultants Noel Castillo and Virgilio Macaspac look on. For inquiries, call 374-4967 or 0919-2844065.

'Star Wars' meals from Jollibee

GET READY for an invasion of epic proportions as Jollibee brings you the mania and the memorabilia of "Episode II: Attack of the Clones", the latest installment of the "Star Wars" series.

Until June 5, relive the sci-fi fantasy when you order your favorite Langhap-Sarap Jedi meals that come with specially designed "Star Wars" softdrink cup featuring your favorite "Episode II" characters.

Try the following Jedi meal combinations: Jolly Hotdog with regular Swirl Fries and extra large softdrink for only P59, Junior Champ with regular Swirl Fries and extra large softdrink for only P65, and the Champ with Swirl Fries and extra large softdrink for only P97.

Avail yourself of other special offers. Get an extra large softdrink for only P22. You can also upgrade to an extra large softdrink when you order the Whole Day Value Meal—just add P6.

Get the "Star Wars" Meal every time you dine in, take out, or drive through in all Jollibee stores nationwide.

Relive the Jedi moment. Catch the Star Wars mania only at Jollibee. May the force "bee" with you.

Brittany embarks on Prime HUB project

BRITTANY Corp., the pioneer of themed masterplanning, continues to redefine what a real theme community is, across fads and trends, without losing sight of value, quality and tradition.

Brittany now ventures into something so daring and novel—building not one but two prime developments at the same time. Welcome to Brittany Prime HUB, Habitats Under Brittany, where privileges abound.

Sloping terrain and sprawling greenery. Wide open spaces and meandering roads. Refreshing views of the bay or the river. All in separate tranquil settings right in the hub of the affluent, bustling south.

Each of these Brittany properties has its own charm and style, but both are envisioned to be self-contained communities where you can live, work and do just about everything leisurely in between.

At the picturesque Brittany Bay in Sucat, everyday is a lovely day, with the delightful sunrise peeking above the idyllic Laguna de Bay. Brittany Bay has an old-world charm that is all its own, for everything here—from houses to offices and shopping stores to hangouts—is planned with the elegant and colorful Neo-Victorian design in mind. The luxurious residential district of Brittany Bay, La Posada, is extremely exclusive, limited to only 90 single-detached homes that are all quaintly designed and comfortably spacious.

The dazzling Portofino in Alabang, meanwhile, projects an abundance of light shining through huge arched windows that provides a distant picture of the Zapote-Alabang River. It's plain to see that there is a touch of the chic European everywhere you look in Portofino. From the azure blue skies to the biscuit-colored walls of every home and establishment, the Italian warmth emanates.

Meticulous masterplanning by Brittany assures you that every little detail, every little corner of Brittany Bay and Portofino offer only ease, security and peace of mind. That is because, in the heart of it all, Brittany only wants the best for you.

For inquiries, call 850-3084 and 850-6989, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.

LUKE MEJARES

LUKE MEJARES IN CDO MALL TOUR

Hartmann Underfashion image model Luke Mejares recently toured selected shopping malls in Cagayan de Oro City to promote his underwear brand and his band's concert. Mejares, the dashing vocalist of South Border, is shown signing autographs and giving away postcards to fans and shoppers in a Hartmann outlet in the city. Hartmann is also a regular sponsor of major shows of the popular singing group.

BITS Clips

TVSI features De Niro, Stiller

TRUTH VERIFIER Systems Inc. features Robert de Niro and Ben Stiller from the movie "Meet the Parents" in its new postcard advertising material. The company will be holding a two-day seminar on "Scientific Interrogation", which incorporates four techniques. One of these is the Polygraph (lie detector) test. The other techniques integrated in the seminar are written statement, analysis, subject interrogation and admission-seeking process. The techniques are used by the FBI, CIA, the New York Police, and TVSI. The seminar will be held on May 17 and 18. Truth Verifier is a private detective company awarded by the PNP as the best private detective agency. For seminar details, call 635-5929, 635-5985, or e-mail truth@mozcom.com.

Nu Skin's success seminar

NU SKIN Philippines (NSP), one of the country's leading multi-level marketing companies, will mount a success seminar on May 18, 1 to 4 p.m. at the Ballroom of the Hotel Intercon in Makati City. With the theme "Just O.N.E. More", the event will be highlighted by the awarding of Pin Advancements and official recognition of NSP's best distributors. NSP's top management and distributors will grace the event, led by Andrew Fan, regional vice president, Southeast Asia. For inquiries and further information on the seminar, call Nu Skin at 689-0333, or log on to www.nuskin.com.ph.

Product FILES

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Quality that lasts

DURACELL, the most popular alkaline battery in the world, is now even better. Duracell has incorporated select breakthrough technologies used in the original and put them into the new and improved Duracell to give it increased performance and dependability—all at an excellent value.

Duracell is best suited for everyday devices like cameras, remote controlled toys, personal stereos, flashlights, radios and pagers. In tests, the new and improved Duracell has shown a 125-percent increase in performance compared to original Duracell batteries. As part of the Gillette company, Duracell is the leading manufacturer and marketer of high-performance alkaline batteries.

Available in leading photo chains and supermarkets nationwide, Duracell comes in three product groups: Duracell Ultra, Duracell Copper and Black and Dura 2X

LIPTON ICE TEA SUPPORTS LAKBAY ALALAY

Lipton Ice Tea seals its partnership with Petron, supporting the project 'Lakbay Alalay' as part of its commitment to assist the public as they travel to various points this summer. Lipton gave away cool, refreshing Lipton Ice Tea in Petron stations along the South Luzon and North Luzon Expressways, in Laguna and Tagaytay. Shown during the contract signing were (from left) Michael Allen Ampil, Petron C-Store executive, Noel Gonzales, Petron sales development manager, Felimon Antiporta, Petron sales director for retail trade, Francis Ong, innovations manager of Unilever Philippines, the distributor of Lipton Ice Tea, and Henry Azul, Petron C-Store coordinator.

TAGAYTAY WORKSHOPS

Government communicators and freelance writers listen intently to Ray Junia, noted PR expert, who conducted the Corporate Communications and Crisis Management, one of the classes of the newly founded Tagaytay Film, Television, and Creative Workshops. Managed by the Creative Media Professionals Guild of Asia and the Pacific, in cooperation with the Development Academy of the Philippines, the workshops for the television and advanced film courses are ongoing until May 17. For inquiries, call 925-1915.

Symposium on real estate business forecast set

THE PARANAQUE-Las Piñas-Alabang Realtors Board Inc. (Plareb) will undertake a symposium on "real Estate Business Forecast" on Friday, May 17 at the Century Park Hotel, Badjao Room, Malate, Manila from 1 to 6 p.m.

The two invited resource speakers are Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho and former Governor of Oriental Mindoro and president of the RGV Group of Companies Rodolfo G. Valencia.

According to realtor Manuel Carpio Evangelista, the speakers will give their assessments and insights into the expected economic recovery of the country. With the anticipated real estate boom, the acquired non-performing assets of the various banks will most likely be liquidated and therefore help the banking industry, and the entire economy as a whole.

This symposium is intended for real estate brokers, developers, real estate companies, appraisers and consultants, loan officers, bank in-house appraisers and credit investigators, property assessors, property owners, managers, construction firms, and other parties who may want an updated knowledge on the real estate business forecast. Attendees will get credits for the Continuing Education Program as per Department of Trade and Industry Administrative Order No. 3 s. 1999.

For further inquiries, call 810-1306, 810-1296 (Raquel or Jane), the Plareb office at 825-0942, 825-0943 (Lita or Fely).

Asia-Pacific business leaders call on Washington to play fair

SYDNEY—Asia-Pacific business leaders called on the United States on Wednesday to set a better example in international trade following its imposition of new steel tariffs and agricultural subsidies.

They said the US decision to impose tariffs of up to 30 percent on steel imports broke World Trade Organization rules and last week's approval of massive subsidies to US farmers ran counter to Washington's commitment to free trade.

The WTO is currently considering filings against the US steel tariffs by Europe and Japan.

David Murray, chair of the financial working group for the Apec Business Advisory Council, the private sector arm of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, said the US move was short-sighted.

"They themselves are the ones who are going to get hurt by these measures. It's not in their interests in the long term," he told AFP.

He suggested the measures were a vote-winning exercise just months ahead of US congressional elections this year.

"We all understand you need fair and open trade, but we all know that there are times when the democratic activity in one country goes in another direction," said Murray, who is chief executive of Australia's Commonwealth Bank.

Business Advisory Council chair Javier Prieto of Mexico regretted the US actions.

"It's of great concern when one of our members uses tariff barriers. It's the type of policy we are not aiming at," he said.

The council noted that since the Sept. 11 US attacks, Apec's 21 members had already applied a raft of measures to stamp out any funding of terrorism.

The Council will call on Apec leaders meeting in Mexico in October to improve trade and investment flows throughout Asia-Pacific.

"We are concerned by some Apec members applying restrictions on products that distort markets," said Dryden Spring of New Zealand.

"We need cohesive action to refrain from introducing new trade-limiting measures.

"The biggest issue in liberalizing markets is food and we need to ensure there are no restrictions to producing, harvesting, processing, storing and transporting food," he added.

"Sept. 11 changed the world in many ways. It impedes goods and people across borders. But we prefer to see it more as an opportunity than a problem. We have to find methods and techniques that can expedite the movement of goods and people." **AFP**

Greenspan will be around for a while yet, Parry says

SAN FRANCISCO—San Francisco Federal Reserve president Robert Parry said on Tuesday that people should not worry too much about the Fed after Alan Greenspan since the venerated chair was likely to be around for some time.

As speculation grows in the financial press about when the 76-year-old Fed chair will retire and who will replace him, Parry raised the possibility that Greenspan could be re-appointed when his term expires in June 2004.

Answering a question from the audience after a Rotary Club function here, Parry joked that he bet he would be retiring before Greenspan. Parry's term as a regional Fed president expires on May 31, 2004, and Greenspan's as chair in June 2004.

"In addition to that, it is not absolutely essential that he would have to retire at that point because, at least technically, he has two more years in his term as governor," Parry said.

"The President (George Bush) could appoint him for two more years as chair, and that is not impossible. The president could reach the conclusion he would just prefer not to have this kind of an issue play a role in the election," he said.

With presidential elections falling in November 2004, Wall Street has started to speculate that Greenspan might decide to step down in the coming year—once a firm recovery is in place—in order to ensure that a Republican president has the chance to pick his successor. **Reuters**

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China, Asean seek draft trade accord by Dec.

BEIJING—China and 10 Southeast Asian countries have agreed to conclude an outline accord on the establishment of a huge free trade zone by the end of this year.

Trade officials from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and their Chinese counterparts agreed on Tuesday to set up a joint working committee to thrash out details of the proposed accord.

"(This way) the agreement could be concluded by the end of the year 2002 at the Asean-China Summit in Cambodia," the two sides said in a joint press release published by China's official Xinhua news agency.

Leaders of Asean and China agreed in November to establish a free trade area within the next 10 years, a move that could result in an integrated market of some 1.7 billion people.

The joint press release said the framework accord would set down "guidelines and principles" for establishing a free trade area, which would take into account the different levels of development between Asean countries and China.

The free trade initiative has been launched against a background of concern among Asean countries about jobs and inward investment being diverted to China as multinational companies seek to tap the country's huge potential market. **AFP**

NEC, HP to work out technology solutions together

TOKYO—Japanese hi-tech giant NEC Corp. and US counterpart Hewlett-Packard said Wednesday they would work together to deliver technology solutions for global industries as part of an expanding partnership.

"Through combined strengths in complex systems integration and consulting, innovative solutions, technology and breakthrough support capabilities, HP and NEC intend for customers to benefit from increased agility and reliability," they said in a statement.

The firms have already worked together delivering complex critical solutions in the financial and telecommunications industries by using each others' know-how.

"Building on their success in Japan, HP and NEC intend to jointly pursue opportunities to market and deliver the solutions initially to a select number of targeted US financial services and a range of global Japanese companies," they said. **AFP**

Sony outlines strategy linking all businesses

TOKYO—Underlining its faith in the video-game business as an engine for growth, Sony Corp. slashed the price of the PlayStation 2 console in the United States Tuesday to $199, under-pricing its biggest rival, Microsoft Corp.'s Xbox, by $100.

The price cut was part of a business plan outlined on Tuesday by the Tokyo electronics and entertainment giant. Sony's PlayStation 2, which has now sold more than 30 million worldwide, had been selling in the United States for $299, the same as the Xbox.

Under a strategy for the fiscal year that began last month, Sony hopes to turn around its troubled electronics sector by connecting more products with its game and entertainment businesses as people increasingly use gadgets as network-linking tools.

Sony is now banking on its movies, encouraged by the refreshing box-office success of "Spider-Man" after years of putting out flops. The film has received positive reviews since it started showing earlier this month and is virtually assured of becoming one of the top-grossing movies ever.

Sony also set up a new company called Network Application and Content Service Sector that will work as a bridge over its three "core" businesses—electronics, games and entertainment.

A WOMAN walks with an umbrella under the sign of Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp. at a financial district in Singapore. Singapore's banks have said they will start implementing international disclosure and governance standards from January next year.
AFP

Japan's growing surplus highlights 2-speed economy

TOKYO—Japan's current account surplus expanded for the sixth straight month in March from a year earlier, reflecting both a recovery by major trading partners and sluggish demand at home, the Finance Ministry said on Wednesday.

Shipments of Japanese cars and electronics goods to the rebounding US and Asian economies pushed up exports for a third straight month, while weak demand at home knocked down imports, causing a big rise in Japan's trade surplus.

"As far as domestic demand goes, even if you discount temporary aberrations, the numbers show it hasn't quite caught up with the overseas pickup," said Yasuo Goto, economist at Mitsubishi Research Institute.

The surplus in the current account, the broadest measure of trade in goods and services, rose 51.8 percent in March from a year ago to 2.20 trillion yen ($17.1 billion), its second highest since March 1993 and bigger than financial markets expected.

It was up 37.3 percent from a month earlier on a seasonally adjusted basis.

While the export recovery underscores improving business conditions for some big Japanese manufacturers such as automaker Toyota Motor Corp., which announced record earnings this week, the surplus also reflects paralyzed spending by Japanese consumers.

Imports fell 12.3 percent from a year ago, an eighth month of decline.

From a year ago, exports slipped 2.9 percent, falling for the 12th straight month. But the decline was much smaller than it was several months ago, and month-on-month figures showed a 0.6-percent rise.

"The figures basically confirm the recent improvement in the external environment," said Goto.

Stronger exports have bolstered hopes the world's second biggest economy, which shrank in the last three quarters of 2001 to confirm Japan's worst recession in half a century, is finally pulling out of its economic tailspin.

Also helping to widen the current account gap was the 15th straight month of surplus growth in the income balance, thanks to rising returns on overseas investments, both direct investment and portfolio investment.

Reuters

Robust figures show Americans are spending

WASHINGTON—US retail sales rose at a strong pace in April, the government reported Tuesday, providing more evidence that consumers—the driving force in the economic recovery—are spending and not retrenching.

The Commerce Department said retail sales rose 1.2 percent in April from the previous month, the largest increase since last October and well ahead of the 0.6-percent increase expected on Wall Street.

This was the largest increase since the record 6.2-percent rise in October 2001.

So-called "core" retail sales, or sales excluding autos and gasoline, rose one percent in April after remaining unchanged in March. Year-on-year, retail sales in April were up 4 percent.

The increase was broadly based, with declines in only a handful of categories. The largest gains came in sales of gasoline, building materials, and sales at health and personal care stores and miscellaneous retail stores.

"Consumer spending trends in the US remain very healthy despite concerns that this important source of demand could be faltering," said Stephen Gallagher of SG Cowen Securities.

AFP

Blame EU. . .

From page B10

which is in the same boat as the Philippines—ignored the Philippines' appeal for support in its bid to secure greater market access to Europe for its canned tuna exports during the World Trade Organization's conference in Doha, Qatar, last year.

The Cairns Group is a coalition of 18 agricultural exporting countries that account for a third of the world's agricultural exports.

Vaile said, however, that the Philippines' lack of market access on canned tuna should be squarely blamed on the European Union's preferential access arrangements for tuna from which the Philippines was included.

The Philippines and Thailand, the world's top two exporters of tuna, have griped about the preferential treatment granted by the European Union to African-Caribbean-Pacific countries, specifically former European colonies, whose tuna exports are shipped to Europe duty free compared to the 24 percent charged to suppliers from Asia.

Both the Philippines and Thailand have resolved to carry their battle for equal access for their canned tuna exports to Europe to the WTO dispute settlement body.

Vaile, who referred to the Philippines' threat to pull out of the Cairns Group as nothing more than "media speculation," said it was in the best interest of both the Philippines and the rest of the Cairns Group for the Philippines to remain as a member.

"All Cairns Group members would suffer if we allowed the group to disintegrate as a result of the divisive strategies of the Europeans," he said.

Vaile said the Cairns Group was still a strong and effective advocate for developing countries, as shown by its success in incorporating its "ambitious objectives" for agriculture incorporated in the Doha declaration.

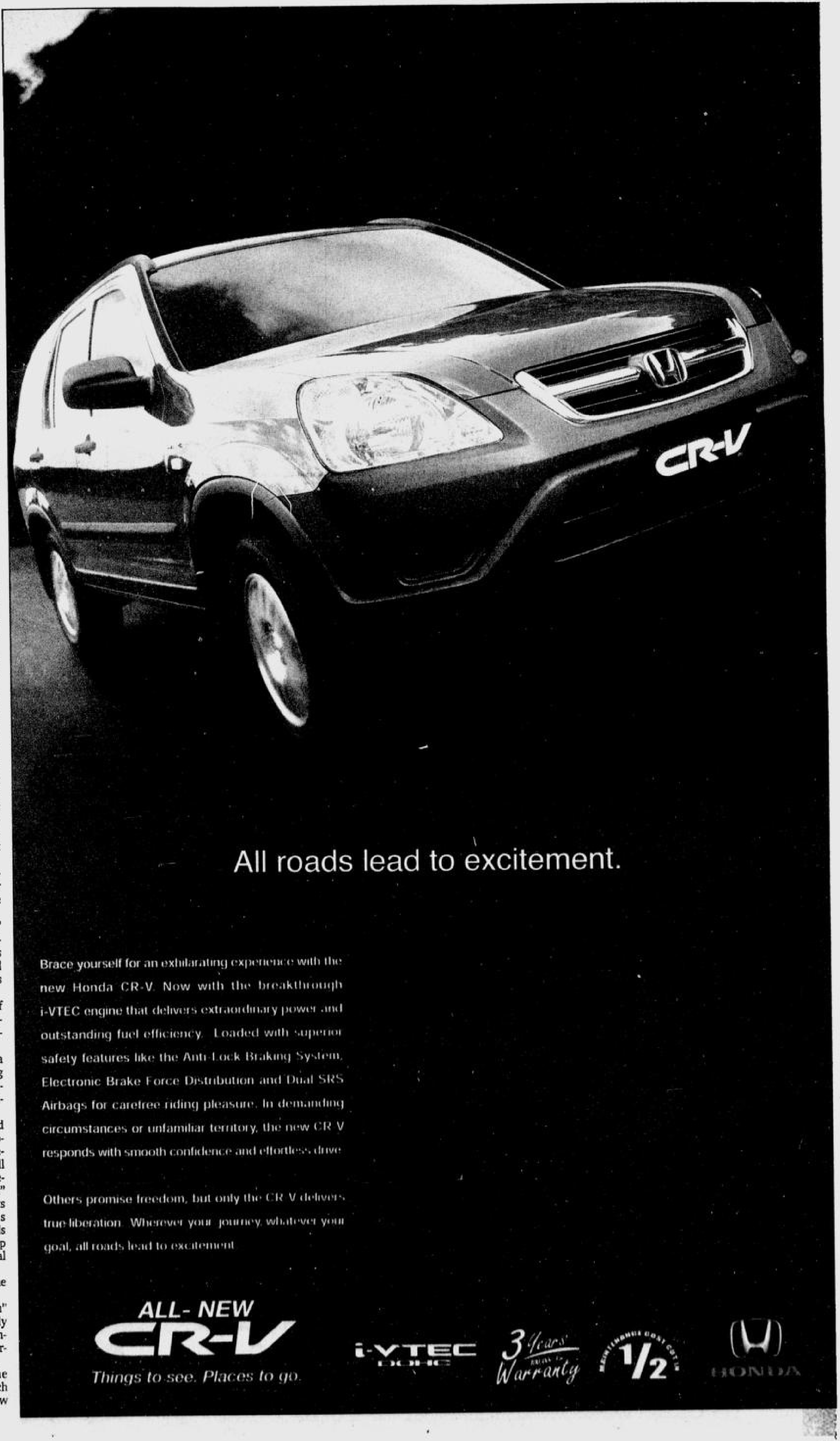
"Without the Cairns Group, there would not have been a mandate from Doha for substantial improvements in market access, reductions of, with a view of phasing out, all forms of export subsidies, and substantial reduction in trade-distorting domestic support."

He told Roxas that every coalition had its internal differences, just like the Cairns Group. But despite differences in backgrounds and sectoral interests, Vaile said the group was united in its goal of securing a better deal for our farmers.

The Philippines is a charter member of the Cairns Group.

Roxas claimed that the "North and South" divide still persisted in a group supposedly bound by a common cause because rich countries and poor countries had conflicting interests.

"We must not follow blindly what the Cairns Group wants because there are rich countries—Canada, Australia and New Zealand—in the group," he said.



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ARTURO NEMESIO (TORO) S. YABUT III

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 14, 2002
At the age of 39.

His loving wife **Ichi Martinez**; children **Marela, Alcina & Gianella**; parents **Nemesio** (†) & **Corinne**; brothers **King, Ricky & Peter**; sisters **Gayle, Nise & Victoria**; sisters-in-law **Lou Vital, Cita Revilla & Debbie Villarreal**; nephews **Niki, Enrique, Diego & Agustin**; nieces **Camille, Tanya, Chelsi, Alex & Marty**; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Alphonsus de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City and will be transferred to the Makati City Hall on Friday, May 17, 2002 at 6:00 a.m.

He will be laid to rest at the Manila Memorial Park on Friday, May 17, 2002 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations to **KYTHE, INC.** or to **BANTAY KALIKASAN** will be highly appreciated.

TAN KEE SING

of Boac, Marinduque

Died in the Grace of our Lord Christ
on May 14, 2002 at the age of 77.

His wife **So Muyhun**; children and their spouses **Webster** and **Carmela, Wellington** and **Edith, Wilbert** and **Ludy, Belinda** and **Ramon Santiago**; grandchildren and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua St., Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Internment will be on Sunday, May 19, 2002, leaving La Funeraria Paz at 10:00 a.m. proceeding to Chinese Cemetery and that to be cremated at Chinese Crematorium, Manila.

> ***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."***
>
> ***John 3:16***

Our Love for him never dies...

In Memory

of a devoted husband and loving father

JOSE "Peping" ARAULLO DEL TREMEDAL

Peacefully joined the Lord
on May 11, 2002 at the age of 75.

His bereaved wife **ADELAIDA**; children and children-in-law **VERONICA & JAMSHID, ELEONOR & REX, FLORENCIA & BUBOY**; grandchildren **Susan, Zahra, Leila, Ryan, Liza, Randy, JR, Nico and Kyle; sister Elena; brother Angel**; and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 2-A, Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 18, 2002 at the Manila North Cemetery after the 1:00 PM Mass.

In Loving Memory

of our Dearly Beloved

Lucia Ortega Legaspi

who peacefully joined our Creator on May 15, 2002
at the age of 74 and now rests in His Goodness and Grace.

Her brothers & sisters **Milagros** & Benjamin Lazatin Sr. (†), **Irineo** & Felicitas Legaspi (†), **Teresita** (†) & Demetrio Copuyoc (†); her nephews & nieces **Benjamin Jr. "Boy"** & Evangeline, **Ma. Luisa, Aida** & Juanito Narciso, **Toto, Sonia** & Alex David, **Marie, John** & Russell, **Robert** & Riza, **Albert** & Linda, **Agnes, Ramon, Ma. Luz** & Job Tan, **Al** & Elsie, **Avelin** & Rey Soriano; her grandchildren, grandnephews & grandnieces, & **Dang Quile Manansala**, request her loved ones, relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sta. Monica Lay Formation Center, Sta. Monica Church, Mexico, Pampanga.

Interment will take place on Saturday, May 18, 2002 at the Mexico Pampanga Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Sta. Monica Church, Mexico, Pampanga.

Donations received will be for the benefit of Bo. San Antonio Chapel, Mexico, Pampanga.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
• MESSAGE OF THANKS
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY
• REQUIEMS •

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- ● Copy of Death Certificate
- ● Any identification document (I.D.)

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"Goodnight, Sweet Prince..."

ALDO ROA URETA

August 20, 1984 - May 14, 2002

Our Heavenly Father has called home his beloved son **Aldo. Aldo** is survived by his parents, **Ariel** and **Lidia**, brother **Dino**, sisters **Erika** and **Zoe**; **Tota** and **Lolo Dado, Tito Louie** and **Ditas**; cousins **Miguel** and **Carmela.**

Aldo's body is at the Holy Family Chapel, Filinvest 1 subdivision, Quezon City. Interment details will be announced later.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

Adela R. Villa-Abrille, D.M.D.

of Davao City

Has peacefully joined her Creator,
her parents, ***Carlos*** *and* ***Casiana,***
her sisters, ***Maria Consejo*** *and* ***Felicidad,***
and brothers, ***Jose*** *and* ***Luis***
on May 13, 2002 at the age of 79.

Her beloved nephew and family: **Reynaldo V.A. Coronel** and **Gloria Maria D. Coronel**; and children **Jose Reynaldo, Christian Lorenzo** and **Casrica Gloria Maria**; sisters **Lourdes V.A. Abella, Julia V.A. Llamas, Natividad V.A. Jaroda, Milagros** and **Teresita**; together with cousins, nephews, nieces, grandnieces, grandnephews, great grandnieces, and great grandnephews, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at 77 A. Pichon Street, Davao City.

Interment will be on May 18, 2002, after the Requiem Mass at 2:00 PM at the St. Jude Church, Malvar Street, Davao City. Burial will be at the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Fr. Selga Street, Davao City.

BARBARA AGUAS VITUG

Peacefully joined her Creator on May 14, 2002
at the age of 76.

Her bereaved loving husband **ERASMO G. VITUG**; children **ROLAND** and **REMEDIOS VITUG, ARNEL** and **TERESITA V. MANGANTI** and **ERASMO** and **JOSEFINA VITUG**; brothers **BIENVENIDO AGUAS** and **ODILON AGUAS**; sisters **REMEGIA VDA. DE ALQUERO** and **SALUD MALLARI**; grandchildren **NOEL, JUN** and **KEN VITUG, EMIL, JJ** and **MONICA MANGANTI, PATRICIA ANNE** and **PAUL JORDAN VITUG**.

Her remains lie in state at #12 San Jose Street, Poblacion, Florida Blanca, Pampanga. She will be laid to rest in Florida Blanca Cemetery after the 3:00 PM Funeral Mass on Saturday, May 18, 2002 at the St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church, Florida Blanca, Pampanga.

Our Dearly Beloved

YANG PAO KIM VIUDA DE LIM KE KIU

of Aparri, Cagayan

Died in the Grace of our Lord on May 10, 2002
at the age of 95.

Her loving children **ENG BIO** (†), **ALEJANDRO** (†), **PAULINO & MATY, ELISA & ANTONIO NGO PEK KONG** (†), **TRANQUILINO** (†), **ROSA & BONIFACIO YAO, LOLLY & BENJAMIN SY BIN AN, VICTORINO & AIDA**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Friday, May 17, 2002, 10:00 a.m. at Chinese Crematorium.

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In Loving Memory

on the 35th Death Anniversary of

EDILBERTO "EDDY" G. YABUT

who joined our Lord on May 17, 1967

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow, Friday, May 17, 2002
at the following churches:

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Makati City	6:00 AM
St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City	6:30 AM
Carmel Shrine, Quezon City	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish, Quezon City	6:00 AM
St. Joseph Cathedral, Baguio City	6:15 AM
Pink Sisters, Baguio City	6:30 AM
Baguio Cathedral, Baguio City	7:00 AM
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Cebu City	6:00 AM
Redemptorist Church, Cebu City	7:00 AM
Redemptorist Church, Davao City	6:00 AM
San Agustin Cathedral, Cagayan de Oro City	5:30 PM
St. Ferdinand Cathedral, Lucena City	8:00 AM
Basilica of the Immaculate Concepcion, Batangas City	6:30 AM

His Family requests friends and kin to remember him in their prayers.

This is in Loving Memory of
Our Dearly Beloved

BIENVENIDO V. OCAMPO

who has peacefully joined our Creator
at the age of 76.

His bereaved wife, **Nilda Lardizabal**
His children and their families: **Betsy, Jo** and **Benjo Gañgan**
Lynnette, Jojo and **Paolo Villa**
Eric
Stella, Joel and **Rico Carale.**

His brothers and sisters:
Luz (†) and **Maning Chan, Ely, Naty** (†),
Giling (†) and **Lyda, Toto** and **Ellen,**
Rody and **Marita, Nenita**

His relatives and friends
request pious readers for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Christ the King Chapel, Greenmeadows.

Interment will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2002 at the
Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque, after the 1:00 p.m. Mass
at the Valle Verde 5 Chapel, Pasig.

Blame EU, not Cairns, trade chief told

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AUSTRALIA is claiming that Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II is barking up the wrong tree in calling for the Philippines to bolt out of the Cairns Group.

Roxas has accused the Cairns Group of failing to support the Philippines' lobby to gain greater access to the European Union's tuna market.

"The European Union should be the target of Philippine criticism on this issue, rather than the Cairns Group, which was not even asked for assistance by the Philippines," Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile said in a letter to Roxas.

Roxas has claimed that Australia and other members of the Cairns Group—except Thailand;

BLAME/ B7

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MOTORING
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

TEST-DRIVE CLINIC

'Thorough research, less driving'

By Tessa R. Salazar

MORE research and less driving. This is what a rally champ is persuading motoring journalists to do.

"Coach" Vip Isada, 9-time rally champ, asked motoring journalists—whom he had been pounding to drive, drive and drive to master the track hours before dirt-trial competitions—to drive less this time and research more.

The Philippine automotive press, of which most of its members have been former rally trial students of Isada for several years in the Honda Media Challenge, received a barrage of instructions on how to conduct effective evaluations of test-drive units. This could have well been the first time in the Philippine automotive media history that a test-drive evaluation clinic was conducted.

Challenge

Isada, who has spent 30 years practically being with cars and rallies every day, posed a challenge to the automotive press—veterans and neophytes alike—to stock more knowledge about test vehicles. "You may not have the 30 years of experience that I have, but you can always compensate through research," he said.

In a test-drive clinic held for automotive journalists at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Cavite on May 10 for the new Honda CR-V, Isada asked the writers to go beyond one's test-driving limits and the usual analysis for the readers and potential car buyers.

"Maybe you've been doing this already. But do it better than the usual," he said. "Get to know, for instance, the construction of a car. What kind of suspension system was used and why that particular system was picked over the other systems."

Guidelines

His set of guidelines includes the engine's performance where he asked his students to take note of the pulling power or the engine torque as well as the engine noise level. For instance, the guideline included asking the test-driver to go on the first gear and rev the engine to maximum or until its "cut-off."

Isada had separate guidelines for manual and the automatic transmission vehicles. For instance, when shifting gears on manual transmission, a test driver should always have a positive feel.

Isada asked drivers testing automatic transmission vehicles to take note of the "shift shock" during shifting. The shifting should be as smooth as possible. Students were also asked to step on the accelerator hard and fast and feel the shift in gears, as well as try the overdrive switch.

The braking test involved feeling the brakes if it was "spongy," hard, soft or dead. He cited a Japanese vehicle he described as having the "most exact braking system" he had ever experienced.

During continuous braking tests (which literally caused the most headaches), test-drivers were asked to press the brake pedal gently, then apply the brakes again, this time fast and hard. Drivers were also asked to spot the difference between ABS and non-ABS braking, and feel the brake "balance" and pedal reaction.

Isada also asked the test-driver to load the vehicle to its maximum capacity and feel the difference in the brake distribution system.

Feeling the handling of the car also means taking into consideration the suspension, steering, sway bars, tires, shock absorbers, the center of gravity, weight and chassis construction.

Handling test

The handling test includes finding a winding road, which would be the constant for every vehicle evaluated. Isada noted that familiarity increased the test-driver's safety as well as the consistency of the evaluation.

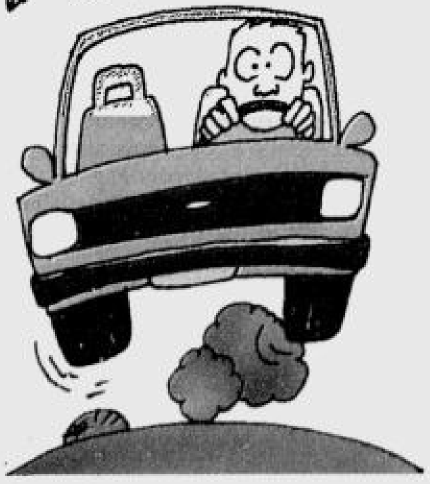
Testing the stability involved taking the car on bumps, humps, rough roads and uneven terrain on high and low speeds.

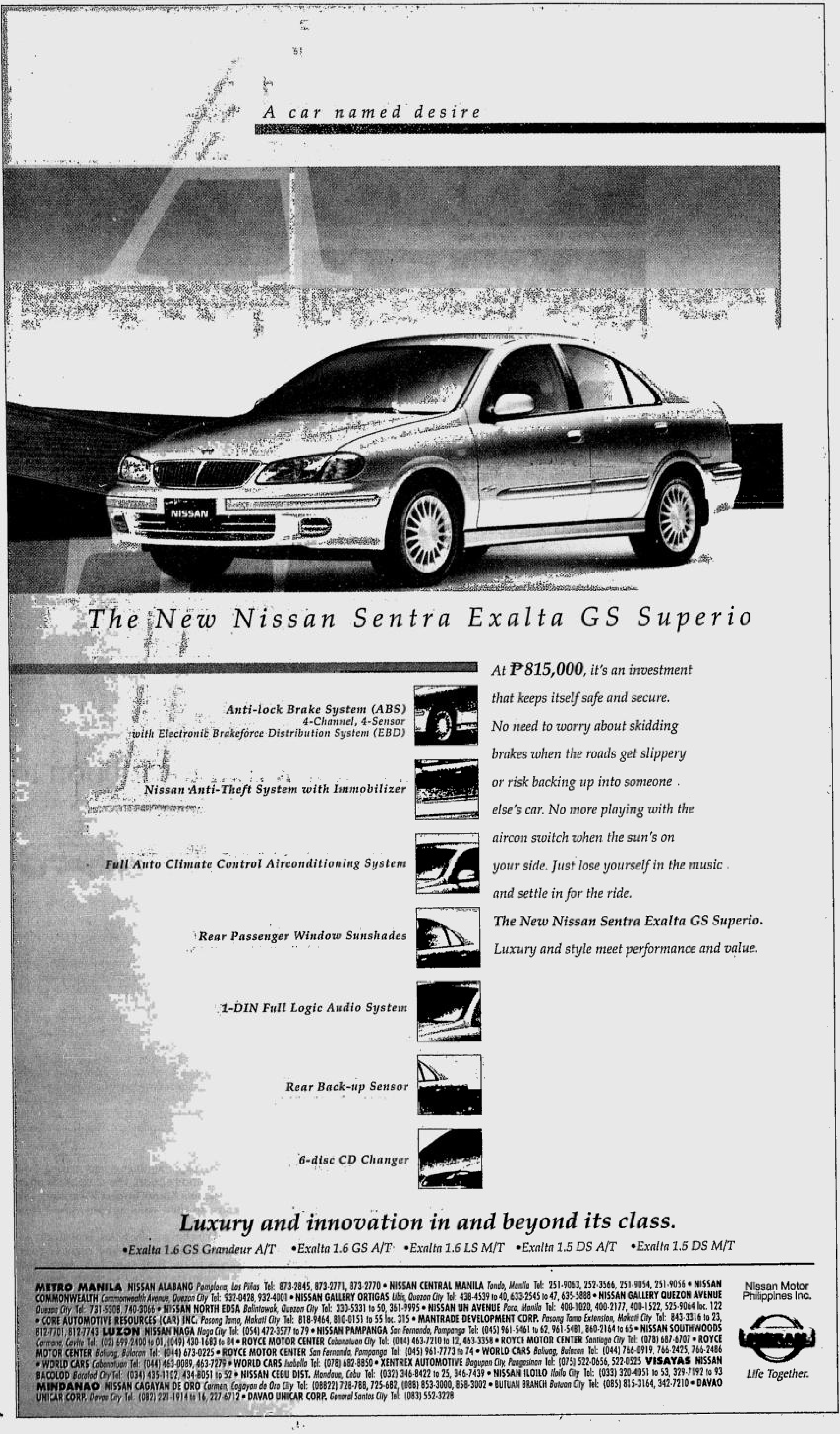
Not to be forgotten was the evaluation on riding comfort, controls, safety and design and styling.

And how long should one test-drive a vehicle to determine if it's good, better or outstanding?

For Isada, all he needs is 400 meters.

AUTO
MOTORING MONTHLY





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Nissan Motor Philippines Inc.
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Life Together.

Big boys spruce up their toys

By Tessa R. Salazar

SPRUCED-UP 2001 Civics—donning sporty, spunky ap peal—recently lined up at the Pier One Bar and Grill patio at the Fort Square.

Enthusiasts gave their toys a "facelift" for added esthetic value. Honda Civic units, 17 of them, were modified specifically for this "beauty" competition. About 300 curious guests trooped to the event, most of them students, motoring press, dealers and Honda Club of the Philippines members. These guests also voted for the People's Choice.

Standout

A stunning 2001 Civic VTI simply labeled "Car C" stood out. It bagged Best in Paint, Best in Engine Display, the People's Choice as well as the overall award—Best in Show. "Car C" was modified inside and out. Despite that, it was not just a showpiece. People found out that it was an extraordinary looking car doing ordinary work. Its owner's friends said the car was actually being used every day by the owner going to and from work.

And such is the objective of the competition: dress the car up but not lose its practicality, dress it up but not lose its mobility.

Too bad owner Butch "Zitro" Ortiz was out of the country during the competition (fortunately, Car C couldn't fly along with him). Teammate-buddy Angelo Lopez represented him. Both Ortiz and Lopez are active members of Honda Club of the Philippines (www.hondaclub.com.ph).

Honda Club members were noticeably in full force (Honda Club of the Philippines, composed of more than 100 male and female Honda enthusiasts, hold EBs, or eyeballs, once a month to learn new stuff, gain more friends and widen the network.)

Asked how much Butch spent for the modification alone, Angelo estimated the expenses at more than P200,000 (that could well be down payment for another car!). The exterior sports a wing, a carbon fiber hood, OEM front chin and side skirt, GT aluminum spoiler, tires changed to don a sporty appeal with thin rubbers hugging large mags. These are 215/40 R18 Falken tires.

The audio is a Pioneer FH-P6600, a 2 kicker S12 L7 Solobaric subs. It has V12 amplifier, Kicker X31 crossover, Tsunami capacitor and stock speakers.

Modified

The engine/performance is a Touring CAI and Tanabe Racing Medallion full exhaust kit. The interior was modified into Sparco except for the seats, and the body was lowered all the way down—the car almost kisses the ground (ouch for every road hump).

MEMBERS of Honda Club of the Philippines and Honda Cars Philippines Inc. president and general manager Kenji Otaka gather near Car C.

THE SPRUCED-UP toys and the boys ROMY HOMILADA

ANOTHER winning look—a white Civic donning sporty, spunky appeal ROMY HOMILADA

Angelo said that Car C was lowered using ground controls that are adjustable in height; one can lift the car or pull it down. Car C's driver does sneak turns when attacking humps, passing over them sideways so that the humps won't hit the suspension.

"We really changed everything, from the tires to the hood, to the seats, to the lights, to the steering wheel. It really feels good to dress up a Civic," said Angelo.

The contestants vied for two competitions: the dealer category and the customer category open to bona fide or enrolled college or university students who own any 2001 Civic variant.

Winners for the dealer category were Honda Cars San Pablo, which got the first place; followed by the Honda Cars Makati and Honda Cars Pangasinan.

Civic Beauty contestant judges were Gadgets editor in chief Manny delos Reyes, Auto Review's Ron delos Reyes, Kotse.com's Andre Palma and Honda Cars Philippines Inc.'s Hideki Kamiyama for both dealer and customer categories.

Honda Club of the Philippines president Carlo de Guzman completes the roster of judges for the dealer category. Other judges for the customer category were Bob Palanca, general sales manager of Honda Cars Makati; Melchor Co, executive vice president of Honda Cars Pangasinan; and Johnny Fetalvero, general sales manager of Honda Cars Kalookan.

'Honda thing'

Honda Club of the Philippines, composed of shop owners, hobbyists and people who just bought Honda cars so they could be members, started out as chatters in Kotse.com. They described what they call a "Honda thing" in the Philippines—driving a Honda gives one an image, a bonus for the driver.

Said De Guzman: "I'm not saying you won't get that on other flashy cars. But let's face it, when you drive a Honda here in the Philippines it's different. Honda may not appeal to most people in other countries but here in the Philippines, it does."

"Well you don't see a Honda taxi. So there's this image that I think Honda wants to share to its customers. I think they want to keep that market," said Angelo.

Asked if maintaining a Honda is expensive, the Honda Club members begged to disagree.

"People have this perception that maintaining a Honda is expensive, but it's not really. I own two Honda units and I really don't have problems. The prices of the spare parts are just normal. Some people even maintain a BMW which is much, much costlier than these," said Carlo.

Asked what was in store for speed freaks, these enthusiasts said that an engine had to be modified; racing filters to be added plus additional stuff like strut bars and weigh bars; changing of the plugs, the oil use and a lot more. But that would be another story, in another competition that involves driving the Honda around, perhaps.

On the road to Baguio in the Chevy Venture

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

HAVING heard wonderful things about the Marcos Highway from people who had driven to Baguio, I decided to check it out last Sunday in the 2002 Chevrolet Venture minivan together with friends Ma-an Hontiveros and Corito Fiel.

Since General Motor Philippines delivered the Venture two days before Baguio departure day, I got to try it out twice on the South Luzon Expressway from Alabang to Makati and back when there was no rush hour traffic. It was lucky I did, for when it came time to drive to Baguio, Ma-an told me that she easily gets carsick on long trips unless she is the one driving or she takes a nap in the front seat.

Thus it was that after we cleared the traffic at the San Fernando exit of the North Luzon Expressway, Ma-an said she would take the wheel. So on to Tarlac we drove, overtaking slow-moving tricycles, passing by the Luisita Mall and finally reaching Carmen, Pangasinan. In some parts of Pangasinan, half of the concrete highway was being used to dry *palay*. After passing by the Rosales public market, we headed to Asingan via Binalonan, crossing the new bridge that former President Fidel V. Ramos, a native of Asingan, had built.

Ma-an was driving so fast (her average speed ranged from 110 to 120 kilometers per hour on the open road) that we almost missed the left turn to Asingan since the road sign directing motorists was posted on the left side of the road instead of on the right. I reminded Ma-an gently that she was driving a minivan, not her BMW 525i, so she would ease off the gas pedal a little bit.

Once we cleared Asingan, we noticed that the highway was in bad condition with many potholes and rough patches. But the suspension of the Chevy Venture provides such a plush, comfortable ride that we hardly felt the bad parts. In Pozzorubio, we passed a couple of orchid nurseries before entering La Union and reaching the junction/fork in the road where you choose between the Marcos Highway and Kennon Road.

The Marcos Highway proved to be all that they said it is: world-class, in perfect condition, providing motorists panoramic views of the still-foliated mountains and valleys. Unlike Kennon Road, the Marcos Highway is clean, well-maintained and has no shanties perched on the roadside. The sharp curves and twists of the road, coming in series, plus the tunnel and steep inclines reminded me of Fiugi, Italy, where I and three other motoring journalists road-tested the new iDrive BMW 7 Series last October. When you are driving on the Marcos Highway, it is as if you were driving along a scenic mountain road in Europe or North America.

In retrospect, it's a good thing I was a passenger instead of driving, for it gave me full opportunity to admire the beauty of the Marcos Highway. After we reached Baguio and checked into The Manor of Camp John Hay, where we stayed as guests of Judge Dionisio Capistrano, Corito's uncle, Ma-an and I compared notes on the Venture.

We agreed that despite its size, the Venture is easy to steer and light to drive with its smooth automatic transmission. The 3-liter, 170-horsepower 6-cylinder engine is as responsive as one can expect a minivan's powerplant to be. With two sliding doors for rear seat passengers, the Venture is easy to board and get out of. The interior appointments are luxe and the overstuffed sofa-like seats are extremely comfy for long hauls, with the third row seat's backrest folding down to accommodate more cargo, even four golf bags placed lengthwise on the floor.

While GM claims that the Venture can seat 10 passengers including driver, that would be a tight squeeze unless two are small children. Eight would be a more comfortable passenger load if all are well-fed adults.

The Venture provides superior sounds with its 6-speaker in-dash CD player/stereo receiver, which is an important factor during long trips. So all things considered, at P1.15 million the Venture merits serious consideration as a people carrier by those who motor to Baguio frequently with their families.

As I write this, I look forward to the trip back to Manila. This time I will be driving.

* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla @inquirer.com.ph.)

WATER VS COOLANT

A quick look inside your radiator

FOR MANY years, water was used for vehicle cooling systems because it provided good heat transfer, is readily available and inexpensive. Problem is, water has a boiling point of 100°C and beyond or above this temperature, boil over occurs. It also has a freezing point of 0°C, which poses problems during winter in other countries.

Coolant

Initially, the auto industry invented the "coolant" whose specific job is to maintain the best operating temperature and reach it as quickly as possible. Excess heat is absorbed from the engine and then dissipated to the atmosphere through the car's radiator. It is the lifeblood of your engine cooling system.

Coolant brands, like Prestone II Longlife Coolant Concentrate, however, are no longer bought for their antiboil properties alone. Inside your ordinary engine, the tiny coolant passages are made up of rough surfaces. This is enough to trap impurities that may cause clogging. Worse, it can create an insulating barrier, which can prevent the optimum transfer of excess heat from the walls of the combustion chamber to your coolant. Yellowish deposits in a kettle that is used to boil water for some time will show this effect.

Superior performance

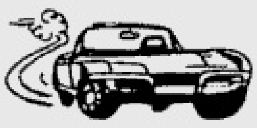
Modern engines are designed to be smaller, lighter and powerful. To meet these new conditions of higher heat capacity in order to minimize the volume of fluid required to transfer excess heat away from the engine and an increase in corrosion inhibition, Prestone II Longlife Coolant Concentrate anticipated the need to offer superior performance. This product has a low silicate ethylene glycol base that gives excellent overheating protection, all-around corrosion protection, especially on aluminum, and specially inhibited for anticavitation protection.

The increased heat load on the coolant and higher operating temperatures in passenger cars have been brought about by many factors such as higher thermostat settings, air-conditioning, larger engines, exhaust emission controls, higher road speeds and engine loads.

In the enclosed system of the modern radiator, Prestone II Longlife Coolant Concentrate when combined with water at 50-50 mixture can tolerate temperatures of up to 129°C before it even starts simmering—thus preventing overheating. And with special inhibitors, it stops rust and efficiency of your cooling passages—creating heat buildup and reducing the efficiency of your cooling system. Thus, water versus coolant is a no-contest battle, with the obvious winner being Prestone II Longlife Coolant Concentrate.

Hari: New kid in town boon to Starex owners

FULL TANK



Al Mendoza

HYUNDAI Korea has cemented its links with the Filipino car lover by recently assigning Hari (Hyundai Asia Resources Inc.) as its exclusive distributor of Hyundai passenger cars and light commercial vehicles in the Philippines. This means that when you buy a Starex or any Hyundai vehicle from Hari, you will be assured with genuine warranty, technological support and first-class service.

Gone will be the days when you feel apprehensive each time you bring your Starex or any Hyundai vehicle to a shop not trained to handle Hyundai vehicles. At any Hari-authorized repair shop, your woes will be over.

But here's another catch: Even if you have acquired your Starex or any other Hyundai vehicle prior to Hari's establishment, you will still be given first-class treatment when you go to any Hari-authorized repair shop.

* * *

I have some friends who bought Starex vans from the so-called "gray market." Meaning, they made the purchase when Hari wasn't around yet.

Such purchase did not involve proper channels. Oftentimes, the sale did away with taxes, thus robbing the government of revenues. The deals from the "gray market" were done back-door, which is short of saying such operations were the handiwork of smugglers.

My friends tell me that after they made the purchase, they worried over where to have their vehicles checked up. True, their Starex vans came in cheap. But then, they confess, they next became like blind fishermen, groping for shops that can really handle their Starex vans with genuine attention.

* * *

But not Nanding Lopez, our family doctor in Mangatarem, Pangasinan.

Some weeks back, he left his hospital in the province to have his Starex serviced at Hyundai on E. Rodriguez Avenue near Cubao in Quezon City.

Entering the shop in the morning, he left at mid-morning fully satisfied from what the mechanics did to his Starex. He felt his van was brand-new again.

"From here on, I know where to go each time I need to have my Starex serviced," he told me over the phone.

Much of the credit should go to Francis Ang, the energetic Hyundai executive who facilitated the doctor's request for servicing.

The other Hari-authorized Hyundai service shops found outside Metro Manila are in San Fernando, Pampanga; Cebu, Bacolod and Davao.

* * *

Here is yet another bonus arising from the creation of Hari. The company is offering current Starex owners a warranty coverage to their vans not purchased from Hari.

All you have to do, fellas, is go to any authorized Hari dealer and register yourselves to the Hari Auto Club. Apart from the maintenance and warranty coverage, members will be constantly updated on the latest developments with and programs of Hyundai.

Here's one: If you're planning to buy a new car, hold on to your money for now. Come July, Hari is expected to introduce Hyundai's latest MVP (multipurpose vehicle). The Italian-inspired (from the world-famed Pininfarina studios) vehicle reportedly exudes the sophisticated European flair from every angle of the new Hyundai.

I can't wait to see it myself.

* * *

My fellow journalist Alex Allan wrote to express his gratitude to Butch Inducil, owner of the shop Automotive Engine Rebuilders.

"I had the cylinder head of my car worked on by his people and they did a very good job on it. However, there was a miscommunication with his billing staff and I tried to look for a mutual friend to help me straighten things out. Failing to find any, I finally decided to talk to him myself. I did not know him from Adam but within an hour of leaving a message on his voice mail box, he got back to me and asked how he could help me. He personally double-checked my bill and next gave me a healthy discount. And we haven't even met yet.

"I learned AER is just the 'hobby side' of Butch's operations, a subsidiary of his ATI Group of Companies. It is to ATI Diesel, for example, that all the big bus transportation firms in Southern Luzon go for repairs and overhauls because of the professionalism and expertise, which ATI has become known for in the industry.

"I am sure Butch has contributed a great deal to ATI's operations because of his accommodating manner and the personal attention he gives to customers. May his tribe of sportsmen-businessmen increase.

"Keep healthy and *Dios ti ag-ngina, Apo.*"

To Butch, cheers!

And to you, Allan, all the time.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Never argue with a foot soldier. Instead, talk to the manager/owner.

SPECIAL TREAT
PGA Cars will have a special treat for car and Formula 1 enthusiasts when it brings the BMW 3 Series and the BMW Williams F1 team collection to Edsa Shangri-La Plaza. From May 24 to 26, you can have the opportunity to inspect the latest BMW automobiles up close and purchase original F1 items at the 5th level of the mall.

SHAW BOULEVARD STRIP

A total car-buying experience

A CAR is still the most convenient way of getting around the city to attend business meeting, to shop and to take the kids to and from school. Nowadays, cars are no longer considered a luxury but instead a necessity.

The Shaw Boulevard strip in Mandaluyong City has a lot to offer when it comes to choosing the right car for every buyer. Car dealerships abound in almost every corner. These dealerships offer all types of vehicles for different kinds of buyers—from a young professional to a family with lots of kids. With the current economic crisis, these dealers entice buyers with promos and easy payment schemes.

However, new cars are still quite expensive, even with these promotional schemes, and can definitely be a strain on a person's budget.

There is another alternative. A buyer may buy a secondhand car. Secondhand car dealers offer wider options and choices when it comes to car make and affordability. It may be the most practical choice a buyer can make during this time.

On Shaw Boulevard is a new car exchange dealership called the Liberty Auto Outlet. It features quality used cars—the biggest car outlet this side of the city. Buyers are guaranteed to get the best "deal on wheels." Cars are displayed within an open warehouse and colorful tents that make for a festive and yet informal area, making it fun and interesting for buyers to decide on which car to get. This is truly a total car-buying experience buyers will never forget.

The Liberty Auto Outlet is located within the Liberty Center, on Shaw Boulevard.

Honda Cars Shaw marks Mother's Day with freebies

IN CELEBRATION of this year's Mother's Day, Honda Cars Shaw gave away special gift items courtesy of Shell Helix.

The activity was not only for mothers but all customers who dropped by the said branch on May 10-11.

This was part of the customer care programs organized by Honda Cars Shaw as a commitment toward customer service excellence.

Honda Cars Shaw is located on Shaw Boulevard corner Pilar Street, Mandaluyong City, and is a member of Honda Cars Makati Inc.

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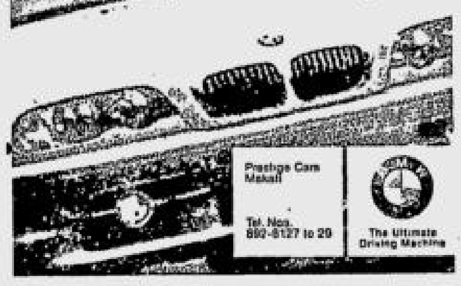

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FILIPINO INGENUITY AT WORK

Multicab, Filcab change the face of countryside thoroughfares

By Charles E. Buban

HERE comes a new class of vehicles that may one day dislodge the jeepneys, and probably, even the tricycles. Surely you have encountered the Multicab and the Filcab from Norkis Group of Companies. They're compact yet powerful enough to be efficient business and personal transports.

The seemingly elastic capability of the Multicab and the Filcab (classified separately under Filcab category) is a reflection of the Filipino's power to adjust to situations. Compared to tricycles, they are more efficient since they can seat more people, use up less gasoline per kilometer, and spend less on tires and spare parts. They won't crowd the streets unlike the jeepneys whose number is placed around 70,000 in Metro Manila and outlying areas alone.

Although there are still very few Multicab and Filcab units plying the streets of Metro Manila, they are however, fast replacing the jeepneys and tricycles in some cities and towns in the countryside.

Says Norkis Marketing managing head Buen Jose Delfin: "People use them for public transport, light hauling, deliveries, and even for family use. They are very affordable to the middle-income market and more important, they are environment friendly."

The Multicab and the Filcab share many good features with jeepneys and tricycles. Their size is just right for the country's narrow streets. They use gasoline so they won't pollute the air too much, and their versatility makes them appropriate to almost all applications.

FILCAB 14-seater Maxiride DX660

MULTICAB Cab V Deluxe

Many variant

There are currently over 200,000 Filcab and Multicab units running nationwide. They come in many variants that essentially fit every requirement of its market. The Filcab and the Multicab are actually interchangeable names whose only difference is their engine manufacturer. The Multicab uses Suzuki while the Filcab is fitted with a Daihatsu engine. Both either use a 550-cc or 660-cc engine displacement.

The 550-cc engine is fitted in variants used in regular terrain-like streets while the 660-cc engine variant is fitted in models, which will be often used for uphill climbs, or those loaded regularly for additional power.

For public transport, both offer passenger models like the 12-seater Multicab Easyrider and Filcab Roadstar. Filcab also has Maxiride DX 660 that seats 14 passengers. For delivery and hauling, one can choose from Pickup, Doublecabs and Cab V Deluxe. There are also Versa vans and Multivans that will do great for transporting the family. There's even Hi-Jet 4WD, which is a 4-wheel-drive that will definitely roll on most rough terrain.

Says Delfin: "To make sure of the quality, all our vehicles pass several processes of quality control while adhering to the best standards required in the market. As proof to our workmanship, Norkis offers warranty and after-sales support for both parts and service."

FILCAB Hi-Jet 4WD

MULTICAB pickup

Better alternative

It was in 1990 when Norkis chair Norberto Quisumbing Jr. decided to seek a better alternative to jeepneys, which have congested so many towns and cities. He envisioned a new type of transportation that is cleaner, less brutish but with equaled or even greater functionality and efficiency.

Says Delfin: "Since there was nothing in the market that could match the requirement, Quisumbing spearheaded the project 10 years ago. This endeavor was nothing new for Norkis since Quisumbing did a similar thing in the '60s when he practically invented the tricycle concept. Such type of transport endured up to this time and he intends to make the same with the Multicab and the Filcab."

To realize the mission, Norkis utilized the process of reengineering, rebuilding, reconditioning and recycling (otherwise known at Norkis as the 4Rs). Using technologies from Japan, it imported Suzuki and Daihatsu engines and transformed them to meet the country's requirements. As for the passenger types, Norkis built them all here by designing a compact body frame and fitted it with a 550-cc or 660-cc engine.

FILCAB Multivan 660

The Multicab and the Filcab are products of Filipino ingenuity. They are our answer to the countryside's transport needs that require economical, light and versatile vehicles, explains Delfin.

Indeed, the Multicab and the Filcab have strong potentials to rival the jeepneys and even tricycles in many areas of the country. With these new types of vehicles, the Filipinos have proven once again their ingenuity to come up with something that corresponds to the needs and requirements of the times.

Performance driven for that daring side of you.

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Yes, winning the tough Silverstone 4X4 Rally of Asia wasn't a piece of cake. And winning it overall, by grabbing the top three placings, wasn't a joke either. The Grand Vitara came pounding on its fierce rivals. Displaying its daring side on any given challenge. So when your daring side takes control, you can rely on the Grand Vitara's powerful 2.5L V6 (155hp) or the 2.0L 4 cylinder (140hp) engines; Drive Select 4x4 system, Full Ladder frame and come out a winner. Go ahead, drive one now. And give it that test you want.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0791 Series of 2002

Final call for Vitara rally entries

VITARA and Grand Vitara owners together with their families and friends will again get to test their competition skills in the 5th Suzuki Vitara Rally this summer. No special setup of vehicles is necessary to be competitive in this event.

Suzuki Philippines Inc., in conjunction with the Suzuki 4x4 Club, again brings this event to the fore in keeping with corporate objectives of promoting family togetherness, environment consciousness, domestic tourism and road safety for Vitara/Grand Vitara owners.

Scheduled May 25, the treasure hunt rally will take competitors from Ortigas area to nearby Antipolo, Teresa, Tanay and Marikina on a leisurely pace but challenging drive. The 100-kilometer route, though traversing various winding back roads of Rizal, will allow the pack of Suzuki Vitaras and Grand Vitaras an early afternoon return to the metropolis for the finish venue.

Shell Helix will be the official fuel sponsor for this event. Valuable prizes await the winners of this 5th Suzuki rally. Those who don't get to the winners' podium still get free fuel and the chance to take home many raffle prizes.

Registration is free for the event and is open until May 22. Since the rally pack will be limited to 40 entries, registrants will be entertained on a first-come, first-served basis.

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LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

COOKING with chefs Gino and Junjun.

So you want to be a chef?

By Cathy Babao-Guballa
Photos by Randy Hormillosa

BACK IN THE 1980S Gene Gonzalez's Café Ysabel on Wilson Street in San Juan was *the* place for dinner dates and post-concert coffee or drinks. Now located in an old house on P. Guevara Street, it continues to draw in old habitues and a younger generation. No longer just a restaurant, it has attached to it a culinary school, the Center for Asian Culinary Studies, where culinary masters teach many of its clientele a thing or two about cooking.

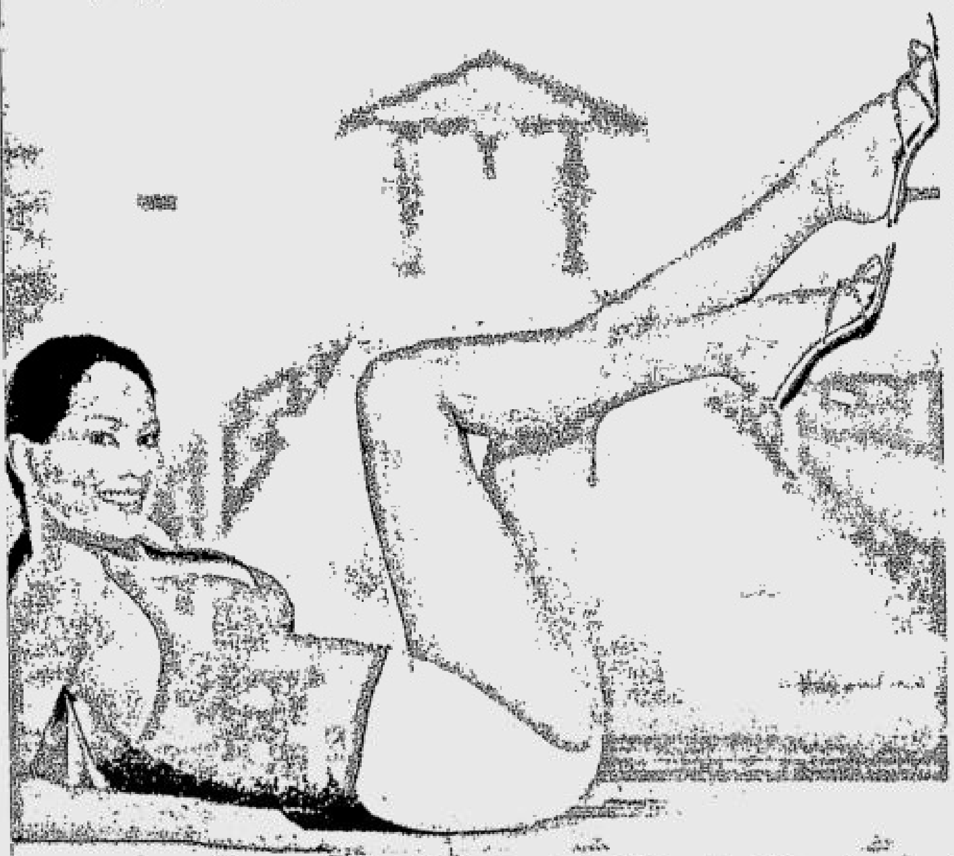
The Center was established by Gonzalez to meet the demand for a quality kitchen curriculum. With an impressive roster of chefs, such as pastry and bread specialist Jill Sandique, Chariya Thaikupt from Thailand, Yoshio Oshima from Japan, among others. The Center offers a wide variety of one-day courses for the hobbyist or enthusiast and professional continuing education classes for those who wish to make a career out of cooking or pastry or bread making.

Classes are limited to a small number of persons in order to maximize learning capability.

Star chefs

Gonzalez is one of the country's moving forces in the culinary scene and the first TOYM awardee in culinary arts. He has written several best-selling cookbooks and co-founded Alta Cocina Filipina, the movement for contemporary Filipino cuisine. His culinary training

SO/ p.D2



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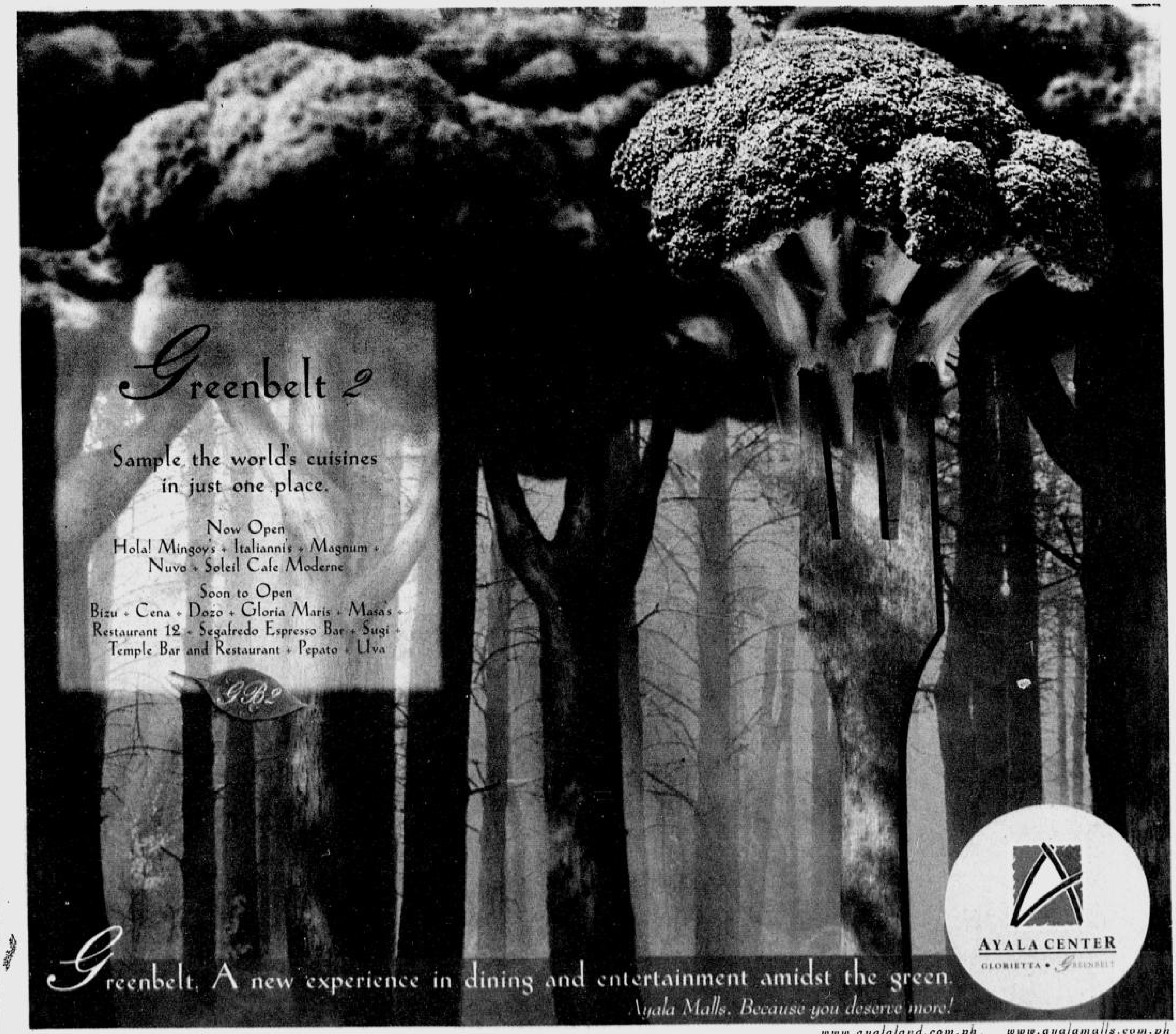

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So you want to be a chef?

From page D1

came from extensive studies in Southeast Asia, France, Italy, the United States, Mainland China and South America.

Jill Sandique is the only individual to earn the highest grade in the history of the Peter Kump's Cooking School in New York, garnering almost perfect scores in the Career French pastry and baking programs and winning the coveted Blue Ribbon in this field. Prior to Café Ysabel and the Center, she was pastry chef of the Tower Club in Virginia, a members-only dining room with Washington and Virginia heavyweights as members. This last stint gave her the experience of serving several hundreds of desserts a day, all prepared to impeccable standards due to the discriminating clientele.

Joining Gonzalez and Sandique are Gene's son, 23-year-old Gino, and Junjun de Guzman, chef-owner of the popular Ago-go Café, a trendy sandwich bar with branches in the Makati and Ortigas business districts.

The younger Gonzalez literally learned the rudiments of cooking from his father's lap. "As soon as I could see the stovetop, my dad let me into the kitchen," Gino says. Summers would all be spent in the kitchen of his father's restaurants. "I've been exposed to cooking my whole life," the young Gonzalez adds.

Through Sandique he met De Guzman, a speech therapist by training. De Guzman had a degree in speech therapy from the University of the Philippines before the culinary world beckoned. He trained under six months with two Cordon Bleu chefs, Mark and Mary Ann Peregrine, who put up a school in Manila back in the early 1990s. Thereafter he went for a six-month apprenticeship in Washington, D.C., under Jean Pierre Goyenvalle at the tony Le Lion D'Ore restaurant.

"I still go to Chef Jean Pierre every year for training when I visit my cousins in D.C. who are all married to Frenchmen. The French connection, so to speak, has worked to my advantage," De Guzman laughs. In addition, he has also been catering for a select clientele for the last 10-15 years.

Gino and De Guzman teach the bulk of the Recreational and Lifestyle one-day courses that run from four to six hours. Each course begins with a short lecture followed by a demonstration by Chef Junjun or Chef Gino and hands-on participation by the students if it's a workshop style class. The lineup of courses include Easy Catering, which teaches the basics of how to start a catering business; Fresh Pasta Workshop (hands-on training); a Specialty Burger class that elevates the beef patty sandwich into a gourmet's delight; Fast and Easy cooking; Spoon Desserts (great for instant parties and big catering jobs).

LEARNING and laughter

No time to take the full-time professional culinary program? Gene Gonzalez and company offer a program on cooking and baking on 16 consecutive Saturdays that can make you certifiable

WHICH ingredient is this? Chef Gino queries his students.

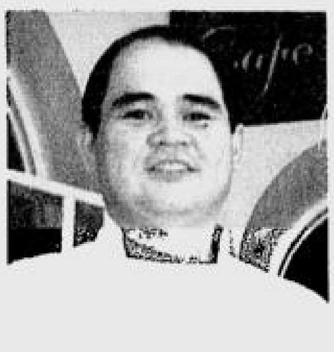
Certificate

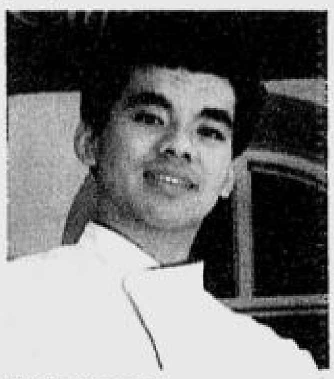
On June 1 Gino and De Guzman are opening a Certificate Program of Cooking and Baking skills, a three-month course that covers all areas of basic kitchen skills; meat, fish, poultry and seafood fabrication; vegetables; pasta and other starch accompaniments and internationally accepted standards of baking.

"The course will equip you with all the skills you would need to be an excellent cook or run a small café. The series of courses is intended for individuals who have no time to take the full-time professional culinary program and yet would like to acquire the necessary basic skills, tools and techniques to enable them to enter a more lucrative world of recreational, and even professional cooking and baking," De Guzman says. "The course is perfect for young professionals who work as the classes are held every Saturday (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) or for newlyweds or even those who have been long married but wish to enhance their culinary skills."

The theoretical part of the course covers lessons on basic kitchen skills, stocks/soups, beef fabrication, pork and lamb fabrication, chicken, duck and seafood fabrication, a day of Asian cookery; a wine appreciation class taught by Gene Gonzalez; an introduction to pastry covering crepes, soufflés, custard, biscuits, waffles and pancakes, pastry doughs, flans, bread, ice cream and chocolate. "There is a 100-hour restaurant practicum that starts after the eighth Saturday and the course culminates with a lunch buffet created by the students themselves," Gonzalez says.

GENE Gonzalez

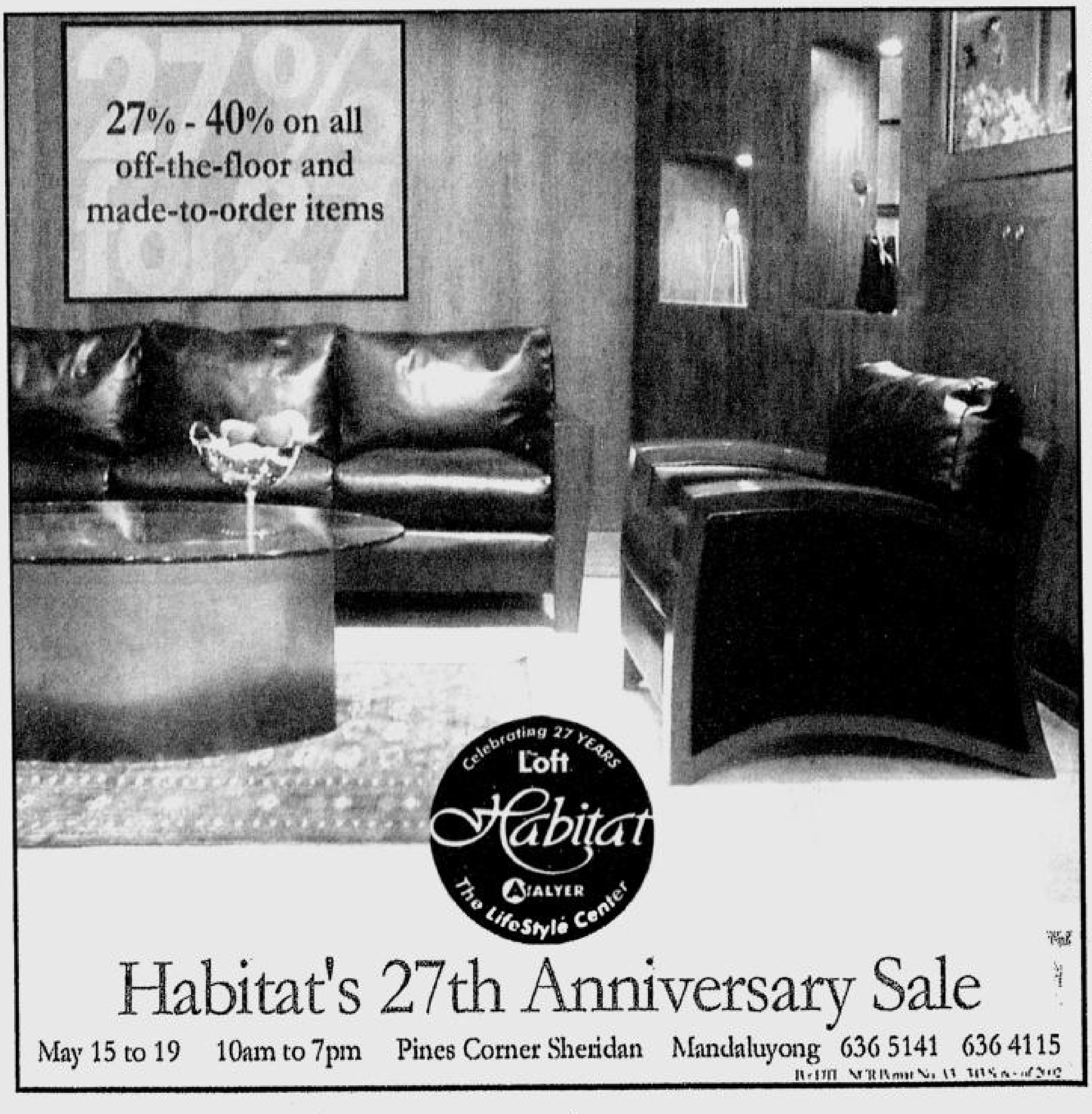

JUNJUN de Guzman


GINO Gonzalez

Many of those who have enrolled in the class are clients of Café Ysabel from way back and young professionals in their mid-20s—second generation Ysabel habitues. "Most of our students range in age from mid-20s to early 40s and they cut across classes, which really makes the lessons interesting," De Guzman says. "I've had classes where my students don't know how to cook at all! Students who were about to leave for the US who were sent by their parents, or husbands leaving on assignment who were sent by their wives, a stewardess who's been all over the globe but doesn't know the first thing about cooking. *Iba-iba talaga sila*, you need to have a feel for the class and know where they are coming from so that you can determine your approach."

For more information on courses, call 725-5089 or 726-9326

E-mail the author at cbguballa@ inquirer.com.ph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HOT SUMMER DEAL

To promote its summer rate of only P1,900+ for twin sharing, Oxford Suites Makati offers another sales blitz. Every visit to the place is capped with servings of fresh homemade *taho* by Mang Boni. Shown savoring this summer's fare are (clockwise, from upper right) Marlon Samson, Florife Laroza, Joyce Andal, Michelle Balena, Jonas Aguilar, Kathy Manuel, Hazel Mangila and Jay Bulaclac. Oxford Suites is at Durban corner P. Burgos Streets, Makati. Call 899-7888.

BALIK Adobo, Bayan

Kids at work

WHO says kids are too young to help around in the kitchen? School is out, but helping Mom in the kitchen is in. Involve your budding chefs in preparing traditional Filipino food the fast and easy way. Let Mom's little helper prepare this microwaveable *adobo* created by Nancy Reyes-Lumen for Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce. Enjoy eating this delicious and easy to prepare sumptuous dish with the whole family.

Balik Adobo, Bayan

1 kg (6-8 pc) drumsticks or chicken pieces
¼ c soy sauce
2 tbsp vinegar
¼ c water
2 tbsp Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce
2 tsp coarse salt
2 tsp peppercorn, freshly ground
5-6 cloves garlic, finely minced
1 bay leaf (optional)

Combine all ingredients and use this to marinate the chicken pieces. In a deep microwave-safe dish, arrange the chicken pieces with the meatier parts facing outward. This arrangement will ensure even cooking. Microwave for 8 minutes on high setting. Check for doneness. If needed, microwave for another 30-60 seconds.

Reggie Aspiras' culinary arts classes

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts located at the Bon Apetit, 3/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City, announces its classes for May. The schedule is as follows:

May 17: Death By Bulalo III—Garlic and Bone Marrow Soup, Bone Marrow and Ox Tail Stew, Bone Marrow and Roasted Garlic Stew, Beef with Mushrooms and Glazed Onions, Beef Tenderloin with Red Wine and Marrow Sauce, Bulalo Cocido Madrileño Style.

May 18: Asian Tapas—Shrimp and Coriander Spring Rolls with Fruit, Steamed Vegetable Dumplings with Dipping Sauce, Wanton Chips with Asian Guacamole, Asian Style Quesadillas with Mango Salsa, Shrimp Cocktail with Kamoteng Kahoy Chips, Shrimp and Mixed Green Pot Stickers, Crunched Tuna Sushi Salad with Wanton, Shitake and Egg Custards, Tempura Maki, Salmon and Vegetable Tempura Maki, Tea Infusions.

May 20: Pinoy Cocktails—Platter of Lemon Pandesal Crostinis and Home Fried Banana Chips with Chicken Curry Pate, Tangy Peanut Butter Chutney Dip, Quesong Puti with Goat Cheese Spread, Empanadas of Beef and Cream Cheese with Avocado Dip and Onion Chutney, Mixed Lumpia (three kinds) with Pepper, Kasuy and Honey Dipping Sauces, Delicious Mini Tamales, Pinoy Style Juices.

May 20: Gourmet Pata—Pata, Lentil and Mushroom Stew, Hong Kong Style Pork Stew, Pork and Sauerkraut, Pork Leg and Shellfish Stew, Pata and Vegetable Stew with Cheese Biscuits, Oxtail Stew and Pork Leg Stew with Tomatoes and Bacon.

May 22: Gourmet Pata—Pata, Lentil and Mushroom Stew, Hong Kong Style Pork Stew, Pork and Sauerkraut, Pork Leg and Shellfish Stew, Pata and Vegetable Stew with Cheese Befouls, Oxtail Stew and Pork Leg Stew with Tomatoes and Bacon.

May 24: "Repeat" Pritchon Done My Way—Crisp Fried Lechon de Leche Done 'My Way', Served Pecking Duck Style with Homemade Flavored Pancakes and 12 Sauces.

May 25: Japanese Barbecue and Side Dishes—Learn how to make elaborate and Authentic Japanese Barbecue, Yakiniku (Barbecue Beef), Yakitori (Barbecue) Chicken etc., Salads and Sauces.

May 27: Sumptuous Caramel—Praline, Panna Cotta, Walnut Caramel Cake, Delicious Banana Pie with Caramel, Brownie Fudge Tart with Gooey Caramel; Deep-Dish Apple Pie with Creamy Caramel Sauce, Turtle Cheesecake.

May 29: Paella Filipina—Taba ng Talangka Paella with Mixed Seafood and Asian Vegetables, Paksiw na Pata Paella with Stewed Banana Blossom and Lakatan Relish, Bistek Tagalog Paella with Caramelized Shallots in Lemon Soy Dressing, Capsicum Apritada and Saffron Paella, Arroz a là Cubana Paella with Taro Dipped Fried Bananas.

Call 633-5162 or telefax 928-9296 or 927-3008.

Make use of your after-office hours and earn extra income

YOU wake up early to go to work and leave work late but want to enroll in a culinary class after work. Or you might be looking for ways to earn extra income or to make ample use of your after-office hours. Now Maya Culinary kitchen has got your needs covered with the following conveniently scheduled evening classes.

On May 14, 15 and 16, 5:30-8:30 p.m., learn the rudiments of catering such as basic principles of portion control, costing, inventory, table layout and equipment sourcing. There will also be an actual demonstration and preparation of catering dishes like Morcon, Galantina, Pork Asado, Soy Chicken, Roast Pork, Baked Macaroni, All-Meat Paella and Special Gulaman Dessert.

And if you want to start your own profitable baking business, enroll in the Bakery and Bakeshop course. Learn all the commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies and cakes, including costing and production batching. There will be actual hands-on preparation of baked goods.

Already have your own restaurant business? Enroll your restaurant staff in the Integrated Workshop on Waitering and Bartending. Coverage of the course includes creative techniques for efficient table setting and attractive arrangement napkin folding and skirting. They will also get pointers on effective selling techniques; order taking; table setting; service station setting-up and checkpoint. Get them to learn the basics of beverage serving, bartending basic plus cocktail mixing and garnish.

In addition, there are afternoon classes on Pinoy fare. Pinoy Pika Pika is scheduled on May 25, 1:30-5 p.m. Recreate your childhood favorites like Crispy Dilis, Ukoy, Chicharon, Crunchy Kangkong, Banana Chips and Kropeck. Enjoy making homemade *atchara* for your family or to your friends. Course fee is P600.

Then there is the Kakanin course on May 18, 1:30-5 p.m. Imagine Pichi-Pichi, Cassava Cake, Putong Puti, Cutchinta, Sapin-Sapin and Maja Blanca served right out of your own kitchen. And a bonus recipe: Maya Bibingka and Salabat.

Visit Maya Kitchen at 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati City or call 892-1185/5011 local 108 (Tuesday to Saturday), or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.

Easy fiesta dishes

CHEF Reggie Aspiras creates a mouth-watering meal of baked *adobo paella* with a side dish of *bagoong balayan* salad, grilled tomatoes and onions. Add a tablespoon of Lea and Perrins Worcestershire to your favorite *adobo* recipe and discover the difference.

Baked Adobo Paella

3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1 c garlic, chopped
½ kg *pork liempo*, 1/3-inch thick slices
1/3 c vinegar
1 c white wine
1 tbsp Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce
2 pc bay leaves
½ c water
Salt and pepper
3 tbsp fish sauce
½ tsp freshly cracked black pepper
2 c unwashed long grain rice
3 c soup stock
Baguio beans (optional)
Fresh shiitake mushrooms (optional)
Salted eggs
Chicharon

In a *paellera*, heat olive oil. Add chopped garlic. Brown slightly. Add pork. Brown. Add vinegar (balsamic preferred or *sukang Iloko* or any vinegar of your choice) and white wine. Reduce liquid or transfer *paellera* to a 350°F oven for 20 minutes until dry. Remove from oven. Add fish sauce and freshly cracked pepper. Add rice. Add stock, Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce and reduce liquid. To make soup stock, use 3 cups water plus bouillon cube or 1 tbsp chicken powder. Add bay leaves, then ½ cup water. Cover with foil and cook for another 10 minutes. More stock or water may be added as needed. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Add Baguio beans, sliced diagonally, and shiitake mushrooms. Cover again with foil and bake for 10 minutes.

Top *paella* with salad, sliced salted eggs, pounded *chicharon* and fried flaked *tinapa*. Serve immediately.

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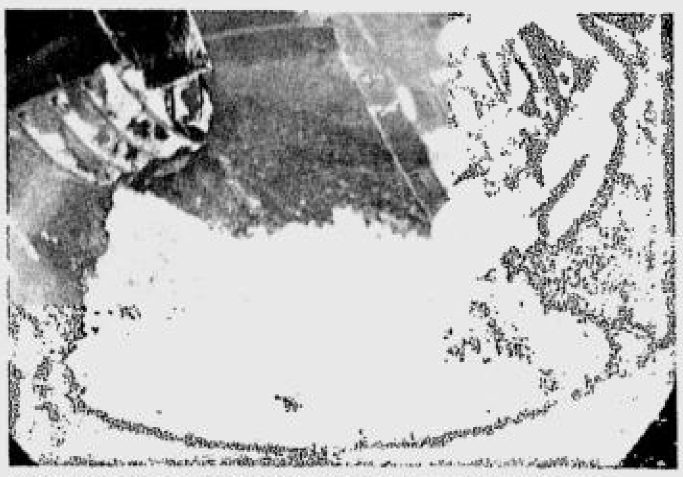
FOR THE CRUST, combine cornmeal, flour, salt and sugar in a bowl. Whisk them together. Add the butter.

BLEND well with your fingertips or with a pastry blender. Keep on blending until you achieve a "peas" consistency.



ADD the yolk and the water; mix until the mixture forms a dough.

Tart work with a twist of lemon

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Romy Homillada

STEP-BY-STEP

HERE'S a nice addition to your repertoire of pies and tarts this summer: the country lemon tart. The combination of a shortbread crust and a tart lemony filling makes a great snack or sweet ending to any meal.

Luckily, tarts are not as complicated to make as some cakes are. The methods of mixing are short and simple. Chef Pixie Sevilla of Forget Me Not (tel. 723-2776) says the filling is added after the dough is baked. The flaky and tender crust plays a big role in tart-making.

To produce the best possible crust, Sevilla says, certain procedures must be followed. For example, make sure all the ingredients are cold. The water should also be icy cold. Do this by placing ice cubes in the cold water. Add the water gradually in the flour mixture and mix just until the dough starts to stick together when pressed between your fingertips. It is important not to overwork the dough. At this point the dough is formed into a disk, wrapped in plastic, and refrigerated.

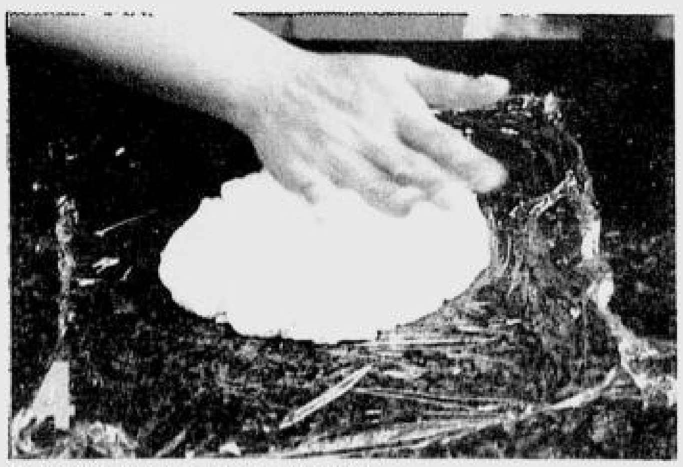
After the dough has been chilled, you need to roll it out to fit the pan. When fitting the dough into your pan, do not stretch or pull the dough or it will shrink when baked. If necessary, patch any damaged area with a bit of extra dough. Pierce the dough circle with a fork to create holes through which steam can escape. Trim away the excess dough.

You can decorate the top of the tart with swirls of whipped cream or you may want to dress it up with lemon wedges for an elegant touch. Arrange these tart treats on a pretty platter for a fun dessert.

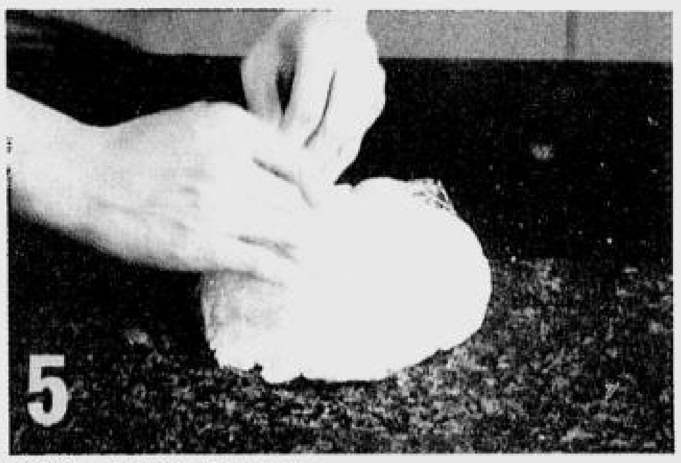
For the crust:
1/3 c cornmeal (yellow or white)
¾ c all purpose flour, unsifted
½ tsp salt
1 tbsp sugar
6 tbsp butter
1 egg yolk
4 tbsp ice water, added a tablespoon at a time

For the filling:
1 tsp all purpose flour
pinch of salt
¼ c sugar
¾ tbsp cornstarch
¼ c + 1½ tsp orange juice
½ tsp lemon zest, grated
2 tbsp lemon juice
1 tbsp heavy cream

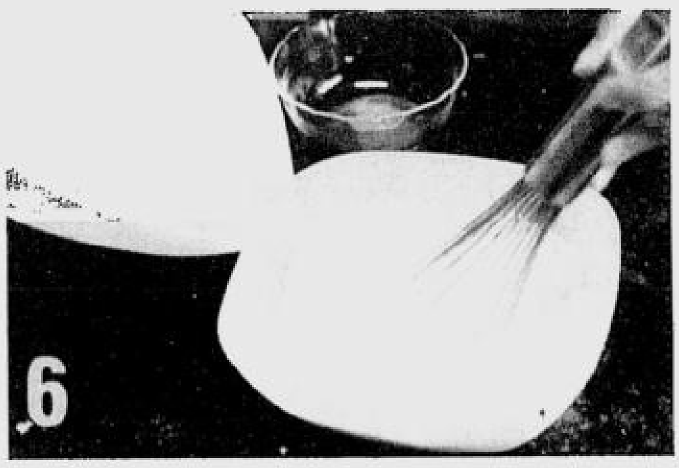
For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



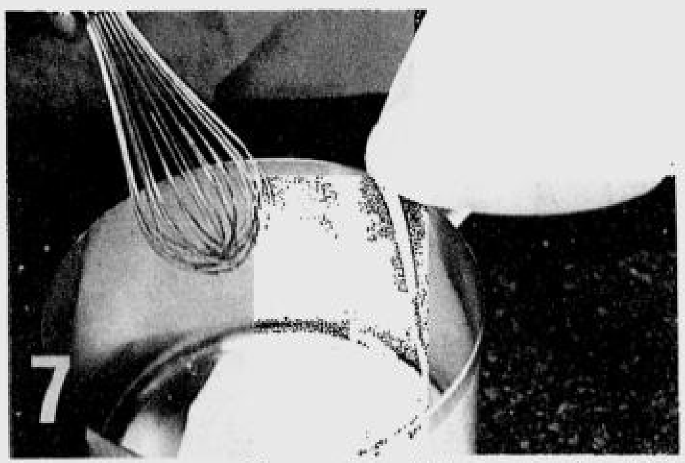
FORM the dough into a 6-inch disk.



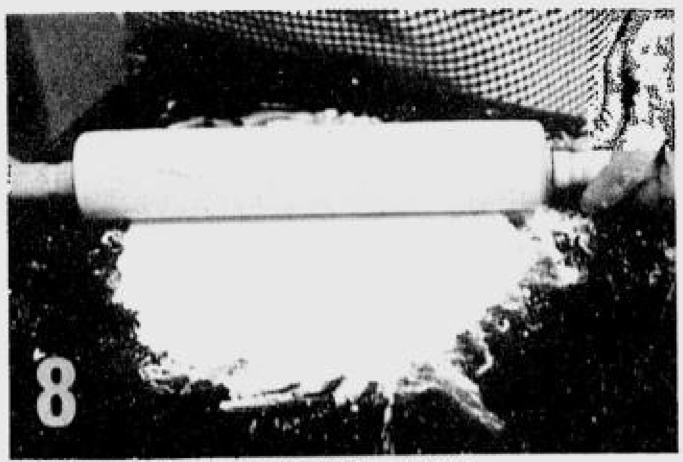
WRAP and chill for 30 minutes.



FOR THE FILLING, whisk together flour, salt, sugar and cornstarch. In another bowl, combine orange juice, lemon zest and lemon juice. Add this to the dry mixture.

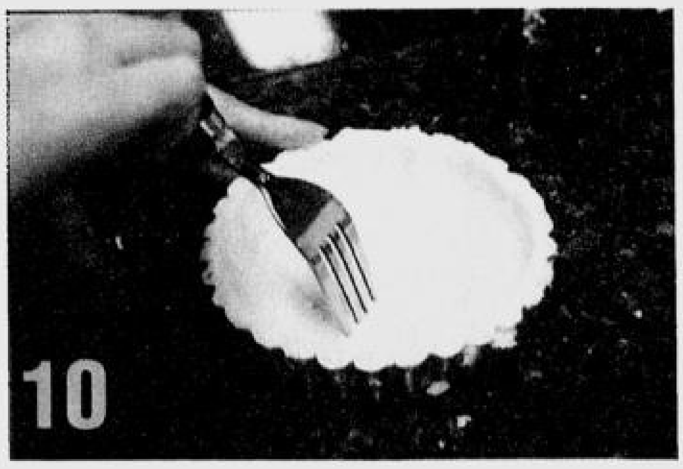


TRANSFER into a pan. Place on fire, whisking constantly until it boils and begins to thicken. Take off from heat and whisk in the cream. Set aside to cool, then refrigerate.



TO PREPARE the crust, roll out chilled dough.

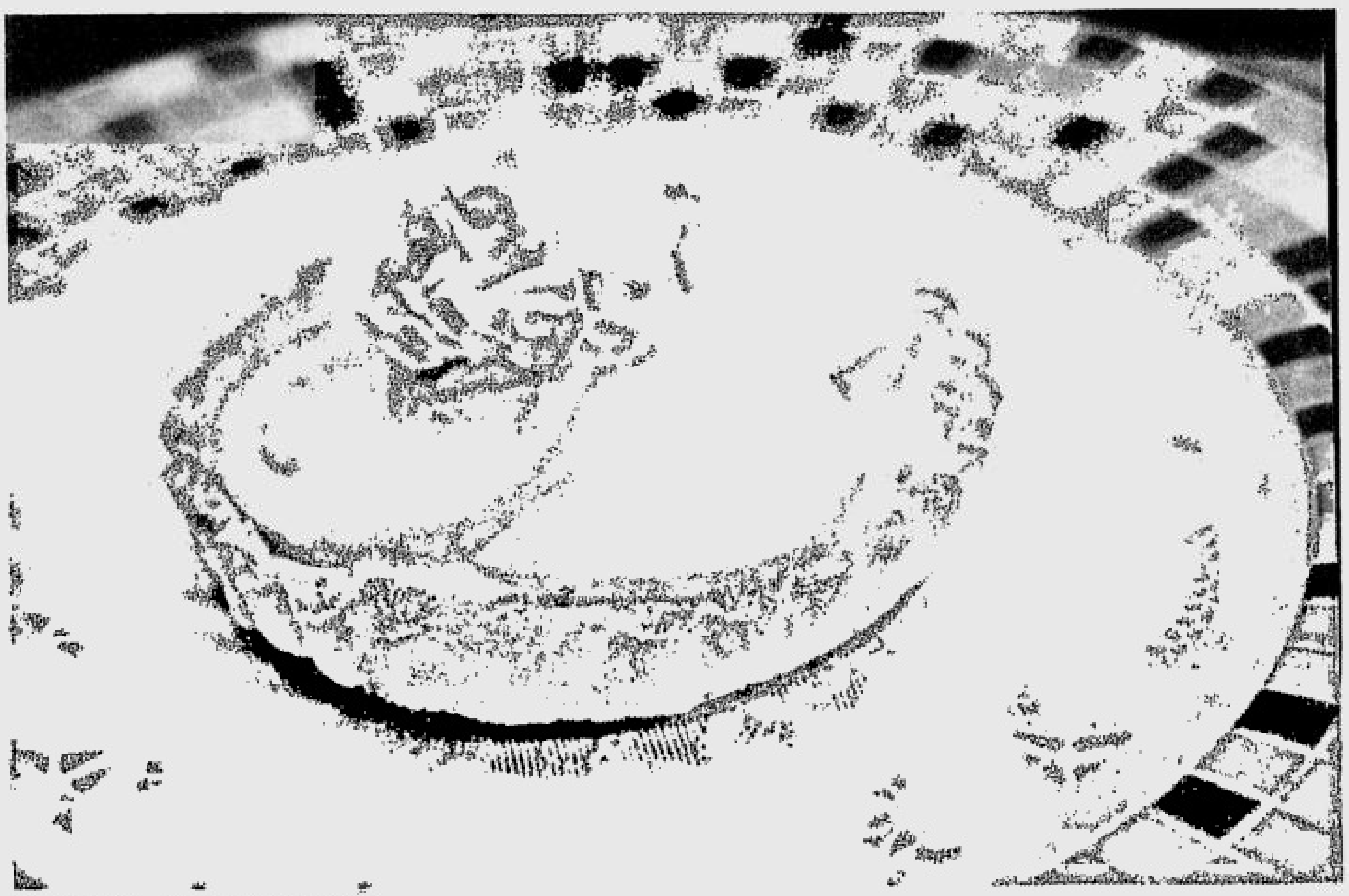
GENTLY press dough in a lined tart pan/dish.



PRICK bottom of tart with the prongs of a fork to prevent the center from puffing up. Bake at 425°F for 12 minutes. Cool.

POUR filling into the crust.

LINE with lemon wedges. Top with swirls of whipped cream.



LEMON tart—ideal summer dessert

Young artists paint unique ice cream experience

THE Häagen-Dazs "Dedicated to Perfection" art competition sparked creative ideas among the youth who were made to present in art the contest's theme—the Haagen-Dazs ice cream experience.

The contest drew over 1,000 entries from private and public elementary and secondary schools in Metro Manila—"an overwhelming and unexpected response," according to Arnold Co, Häagen-Dazs marketing and distribution officer.

The 50 finalists were exhibited at the Greenhills Shopping Center and at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall. National Artist Napoleon Abueva led the board of judges that included Museo Pambata president Nina Lim Yuson, art curator Silvana Diaz, contemporary artist Ross Capili, fashion designer Rajo Laurel, Cibo owner Margarita Fores, NBC president and CEO Francis Lumen, Mary Ann Lumen, and Philippine Star lifestyle editor Millet Mananquil.

The two grand prize winners received cash while runners-up received trophies and gift certificates. The classes of the grand prize winners, including their school principals and teachers, were treated to a special Häagen-Dazs ice cream party.

"This contest is about passion—Häagen-Dazs' passion for perfection, to use the best ingredients to come up with the world's finest ice cream, and ultimately the best ice cream experience for the consumer—the Häagen-Dazs ice cream experience," Co said. "It is the same passion that we want to cultivate among students, whether in the arts or other fields."

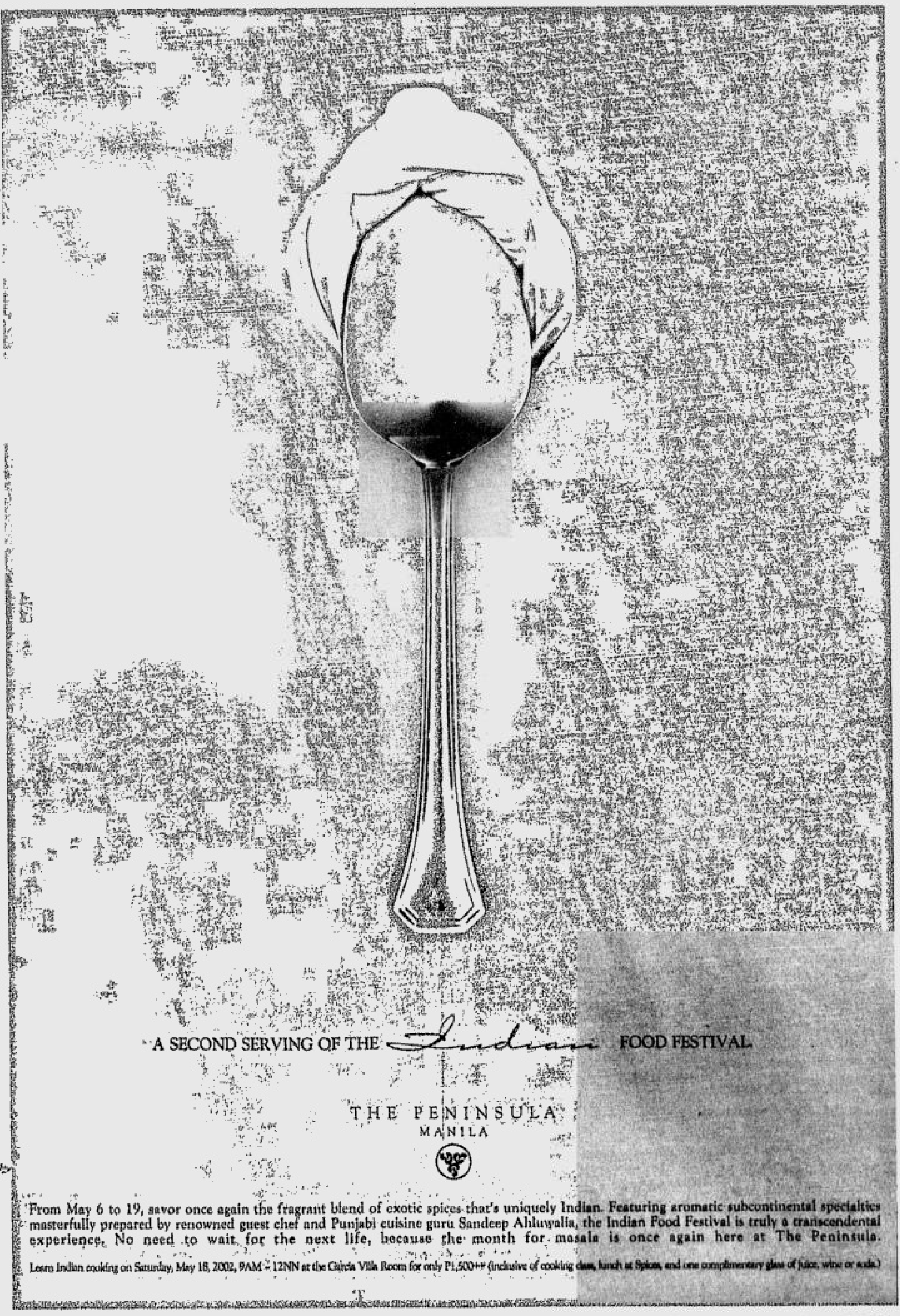
Häagen-Dazs is available at its cafés in Glorietta, Shangri-La Plaza, Greenbelt, Alabang Town Center and the S&R Price Club. It is also available in pints, minicups and stickbars in leading groceries, supermarkets, hotels and restaurants nationwide.

Dedicated to Perfection
Dedicated to Perfection
Art Competition

THE BEST OF THE BEST. The high school winners with their entries. From left, 1st runner-up Joezel Rizi Nubla of the Philippine Cultural High School, grand prize winner Blessie Lim of the Chiang Kai Shek College and 2nd runner-up Lance Kirby Yaneza of the F.G. Calderon Integrated School.

MUSEO Pambata president Nina Lim Yuson beats the heat with her cup of Haagen-Dazs ice cream.

Häagen-Dazs' Arnold Co, left, congratulates high school category grand prize winner Blessie Lim of Chiang-Kai Shek College.



A SECOND SERVING OF THE *Indian* FOOD FESTIVAL.

THE PENINSULA
MANILA

From May 6 to 19, savor once again the fragrant blend of exotic spices that's uniquely Indian. Featuring aromatic subcontinental specialties masterfully prepared by renowned guest chef and Punjabi cuisine guru Sandeep Ahluwalia, the Indian Food Festival is truly a transcendental experience. No need to wait for the next life, because the month for masala is once again here at The Peninsula.

Learn Indian cooking on Saturday, May 18, 2002, 9AM – 12NN at the Garcia Villa Room for only P1,500++ (inclusive of cooking class, lunch at Spices, and one complimentary glass of juice, wine or soda.)

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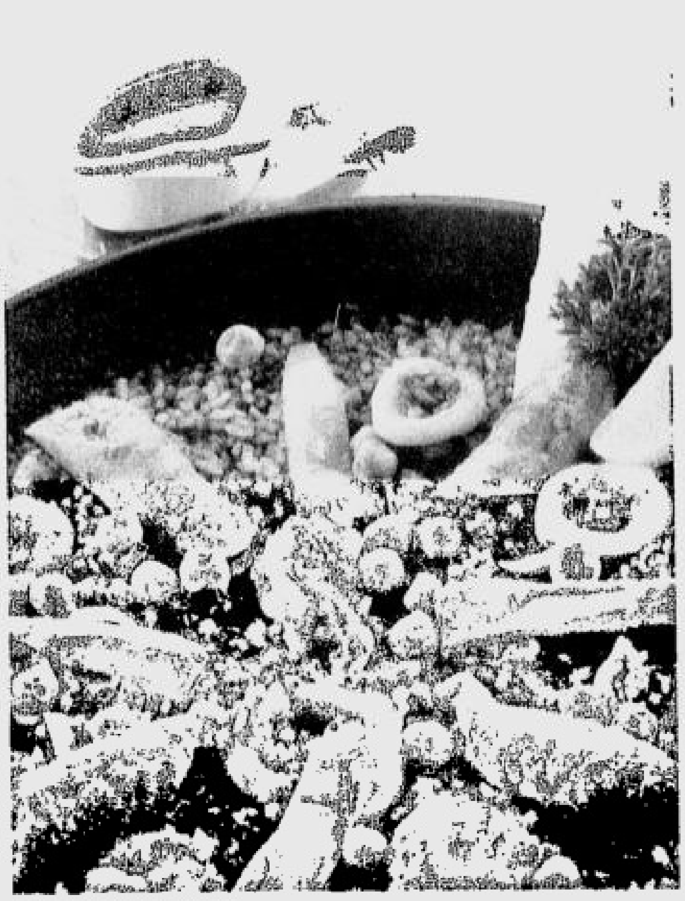
HORIATIKI Greek Salad


PAELLA Verde Entrée

Spanish dishes to try on your own

THE SPANISH dinner served at the 6th Mediterranean Getaway Dining Club hosted by the newly renovated Novencientos Tapas Bar and Bistro, a landmark in the Remedios Circle area of Malate, served tender tiny white fish marinated in garlic, oil and vinegar as first course.

Instead of smelt, Doña Elena Anchovies were used. Pietro Coricelli Olive Oil helped bring out the full flavor.

Adding a cultural flavor for the occasion was Señor Jorges Aguillar III, cultural attaché of the Spanish Embassy who proved to be quite a storyteller with his yarns of travels through Europe and tales of Spanish cultural traditions. Here are recipes from that memorable dinner.

Boquerones Barcelona

600 g fresh Doña Elena Anchovies
250 ml white vinegar
50 g red and green bell pepper
100 g fresh chopped garlic
120 ml Pietro Coricelli olive oil
5 g iodized salt
5 g ground black pepper
3 pc American lemon
30 g parsley

Clean and remove head and bones of fresh anchovies, wash in white vinegar, then drain. Marinate in olive oil, lemon juice, chopped garlic, salt and pepper.

Arrange in *tapas* plate, garnish with chopped parsley, garlic, red and green bell pepper.

Corteza de Cerdo con Anchoa

100 g pork rind
40 g anchovies
5 g salt
5 g pepper
1/6 pc lemon
Oil for frying
Parsley for garnishing

Season pork with salt and pepper. Roll over anchovies around pork rind with toothpick then deep fry. Garnish with lemon wedge and parsley.

Gazpacho Andalucia Soup

50 g ripe tomatoes
50 g red capsicum
50 g cucumber
50 g white onion
10 ml white wine vinegar
10 ml Pietro Coricelli olive oil
25 ml tomato juice
5 grams Pimiento Dulce

Clean and remove seed and skin of all vegetables. Put all vegetables together in blender and purée. Season with salt and pepper, white wine vinegar, and olive oil. Keep refrigerated, serve chilled.

Garnish with a drop of olive oil and a chunk of mixed vegetables.

Horiatiki Greek Salad

40 g mixed lettuce
50 g cherry tomatoes
50 g cucumber
25 g red onion rings
3 pcs Doña Maria Black Olives
30 g Feta cheese cubes
1 g fresh oregano

BOQUERONES Barcelona

Wash, clean and cut mixed lettuce and arrange into salad plate. Slice tomatoes into wedges and slice onions and cucumber into rings, then put on top of the lettuce. Garnish with fresh oregano leaves.

Dressing: Classic French vinaigrette with fresh oregano

Spaghetti Mil Novecientos

17 g Federici Spaghetti, cooked al dente
1 pc fresh basil leaves for garnishing
15 g Pecorino flakes
75 g chopped whole canned tomatoes
5 g chopped garlic
15 g Doña Maria Black and Green Olives, sliced
15 g Doña Maria Capers
10 g Doña Elena Anchovies
45 ml Pietro Coricelli olive oil
2 g dried chilis
Salt and pepper to taste

Cook pasta al dente and set aside. Sauté garlic, anchovies and tomato in olive oil, then add capers, olives and other ingredients, and simmer for 1 minute.

Add pasta to the sauce and garnish with fresh basil leaves and Pecorino cheese.

Paella Verde Entrée

5 g salt and pepper
60 ml Pietro Coricelli olive oil
1 c Calrose rice
450 ml fish stock
100 g squid with head, sliced
4 pc 100 g baby prawns
65 g lamb sausage, sliced into 4 pc
50 g chopped onion
50 g chopped garlic
30 ml tomato purée
3 g pimiento dulce powder
3 g yellow food color powder
3 ml squid ink
30 g red capsicum
30 g frozen peas

Sauté onion and garlic in olive oil, then add squid, prawns, pimiento dulce, food coloring, squid ink, tomato purée and rice. Add fish stock, salt and pepper to taste. Balance *paellera* and fire until rice is cooked al dente, then add 4 slices of lamb sausage. Garnish with lemon and Mary sauce.

Cassata alla Siciliana

1 pc Taisan *mamon*
250 g Ricotta cheese
30 ml whipped cream
60 ml sugar
5 g ground cinnamon
40 g semisweet chocolate
30 g candied fruits
60 ml crème de cacao

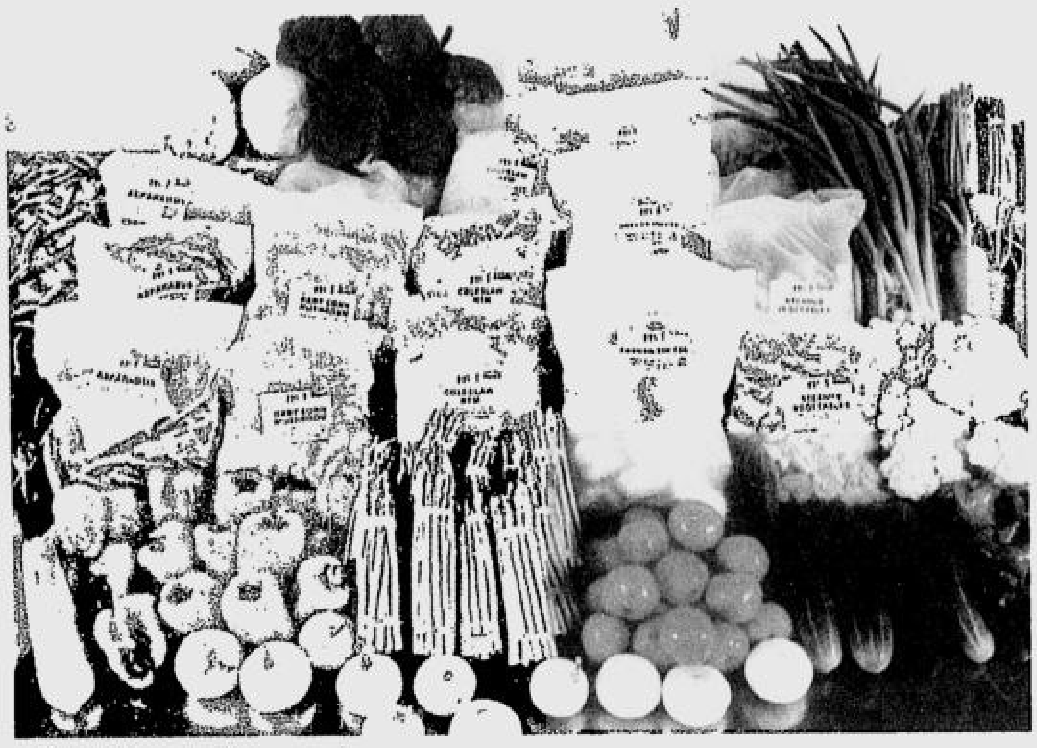
For icing:
100 g semi-sweet chocolate
90 ml double espresso
60 g unsalted butter
30 ml crème de cacao

Cut bread into 4 pieces, mix all ingredients, and layer into mold then chill. Melt chocolate with coffee, butter and liquor. Apply to cake evenly. Keep refrigerated.

COLD kitchen preparation and assembly

BLAST chilling technology is used at MSI.

Revolutionizing the Philippine food service industry


MSI provides vegetable processing.

A DIFFERENT and radical transformation is happening in the Philippine food service industry, modernizing the business process and its environment.

Meal Solutions Inc. (MSI) is a food commissary which will relieve restaurant operators from the pressures of high rental and labor costs; escalating costs of raw vegetables, poultry, meat and seafood; and ensure consistency in quality, and control in portioning and wastage. MSI also applies blast chilling (and soon, blast freezing) technology for a longer product shelf life.

By utilizing larger batch processing and the proper equipment, customers benefit from higher yields; labor and training costs; kitchen area requirements; and equipment investment. Fusing technical expertise with a strong customer-oriented perspective, MSI provides a revolutionary approach to serve the vast and widely diversified Philippine food service industry.

HOT kitchen cooking

PRODUCT development is part of MSI's services.

Come up with a veggie treat on your own

WIDE array of fresh seafood

TRUE to its mission of being the low-cost provider of the Filipino family's needs, Big R Supercenter gives customers the best shopping experience, with its selling area of some 10,000-12,000 sq m, carrying every grocery, general merchandise, apparel, bakery, prepared food, fresh and frozen item and appliances.

"We also aim to improve customers' lives by ensuring that high-quality products are very accessible and affordable to them," says Fernando Yu, Big R's director for operations.

At the Big R stores in Novaliches, Metro East and the new Starmills in San Fernando Pampanga, shoppers can pick from a wide array of the freshest fruits, vegetables, meats, poulty and seafood, as well as the most complete lineup of frozen items at low prices.

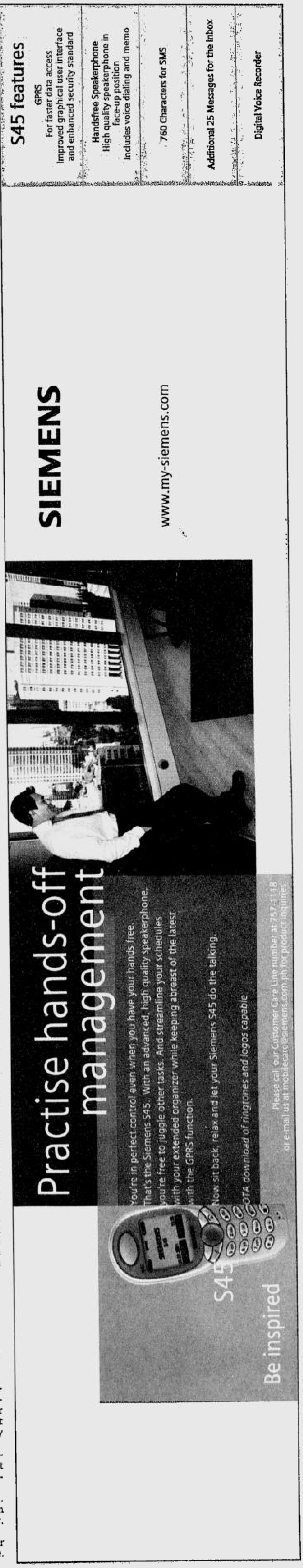
If you've just started to appreciate fresh veggies, here's a simple yet delicious recipe for fresh broccoli flowers microwaved in chicken broth and sprinkled with Parmesan cheese, courtesy of Big R:

Italian Green Treat

1 1b fresh broccoli flowers
3 packets of chicken bouillon
2-3 c hot water
1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
freshly ground pepper

1. Place broccoli in a microwave-safe casserole dish. Dissolve bouillon in 2 cups of hot water. Pour over broccoli. Add enough water so that the beans are not quite covered by the liquid.
2. Cover the casserole and microwave on high until beans are just tender (about 5-7 minutes, depending on the microwave and dish).
3. Drain and discard liquid. Sprinkle hot broccoli with parmesan cheese and freshly ground pepper. Toss gently.
4. Serve immediately while hot or may be served at room temperature.

FRESH fruits and veggies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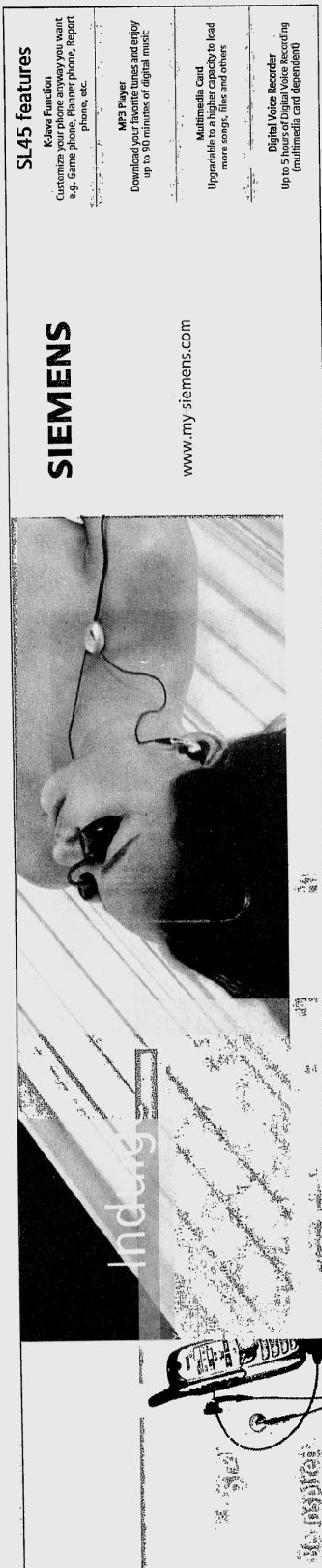
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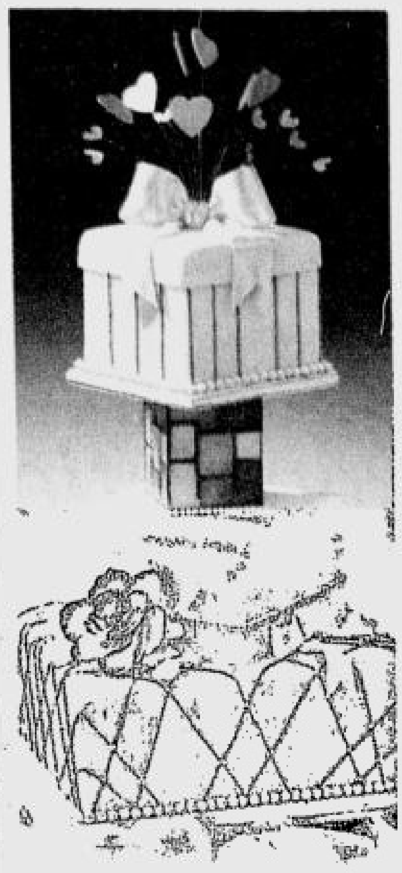
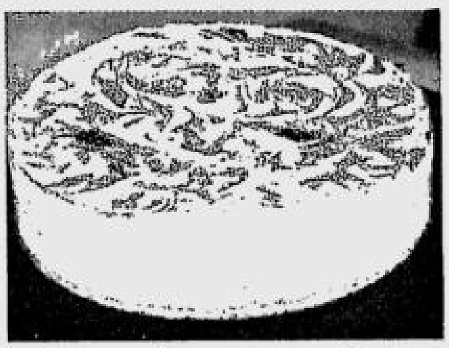


UNIQUELY designed Fondant Bridal Cake Collection with romantic and inspiring themes such as Love Reigns, Heaven Amongst the Stars and A Heart for a Heart are just some of the many designs you can choose from at Goldilocks Bakeshops. Cakes may be customized depending on budget, motif or color preference.



Mouthwatering cheesecakes

CHEESECAKE, etc. offers an array of cheesecakes: Mars Deadly Mousse, Mango Passion with Belgian Double Cream Cheese, White Chocolate Pistachio, Berry Temptation Cheesecake, Berry Blue Cheesecake and Cashew Dome.

Complement your dessert with beverages like Ghirardelli Hot Chocolates, Chocomalt, Double Hot Chocolate and Fat-Free White Mocha. Also try Fruizzi, an iced drink available in strawberry, tropicana and banana flavors.

Bring home the special Cheesecake, etc. treat with any of the takeout samplers, which are available in threes, fours and sixes.

Cheesecake, etc. is located at the Greenbelt and Glorietta malls in Makati, Alabang Town Center and soon at The Podium, Ortigas Center.

Seafood alternative for pizza lovers

AS more people discover pizza innovations introduced by Greenwich with the recent Primo Pizza becoming its flag-bearer, the country's largest pizza chain has been inspired to explore other flavor concepts.

The Garden Fresh Pines, a vegetarian-oriented classic, has become an instant hit that it is now one of the all-time favorites in the Greenwich array of pizza flavors. Following this direction for a nonmeat option, Greenwich developed its Seafood Pizza. Generous toppings of crabsticks, shrimps, chunks of veggies, a hefty mix of mozzarella cheese and marinara sauce are its ingredients.

This seafood alternative is the latest addition to the "thick crust" category of Greenwich. The first was Primo Pizza, loaded with premium meat ingredients and topped with mozzarella cheese.

If you haven't tried this seafood alternative, you're definitely missing out.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

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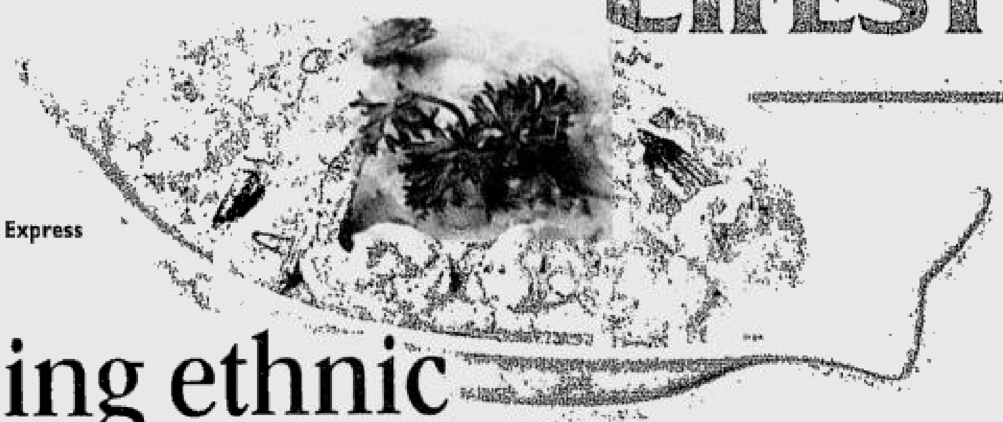

HIPON Express

Going ethnic and acoustic by the ridge

Families have discovered Tapika on Katipunan Road for lunch and dinner; the yuppies take over after hours for some drinks and acoustic music, even stand-up comedy on weekends

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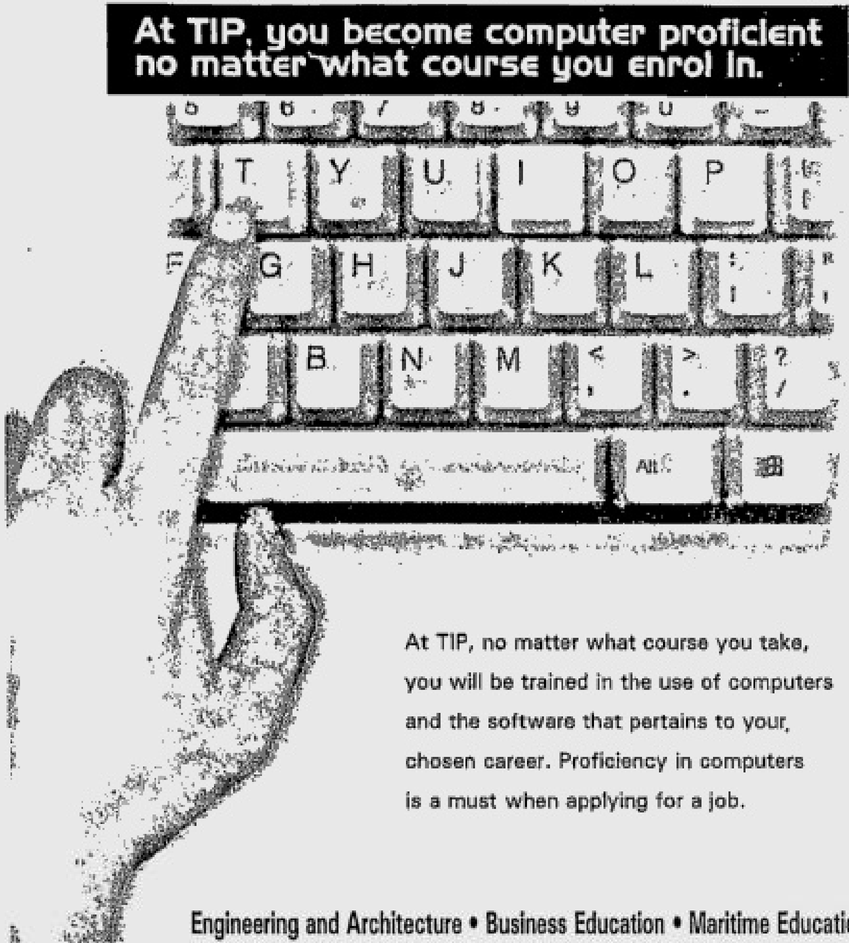
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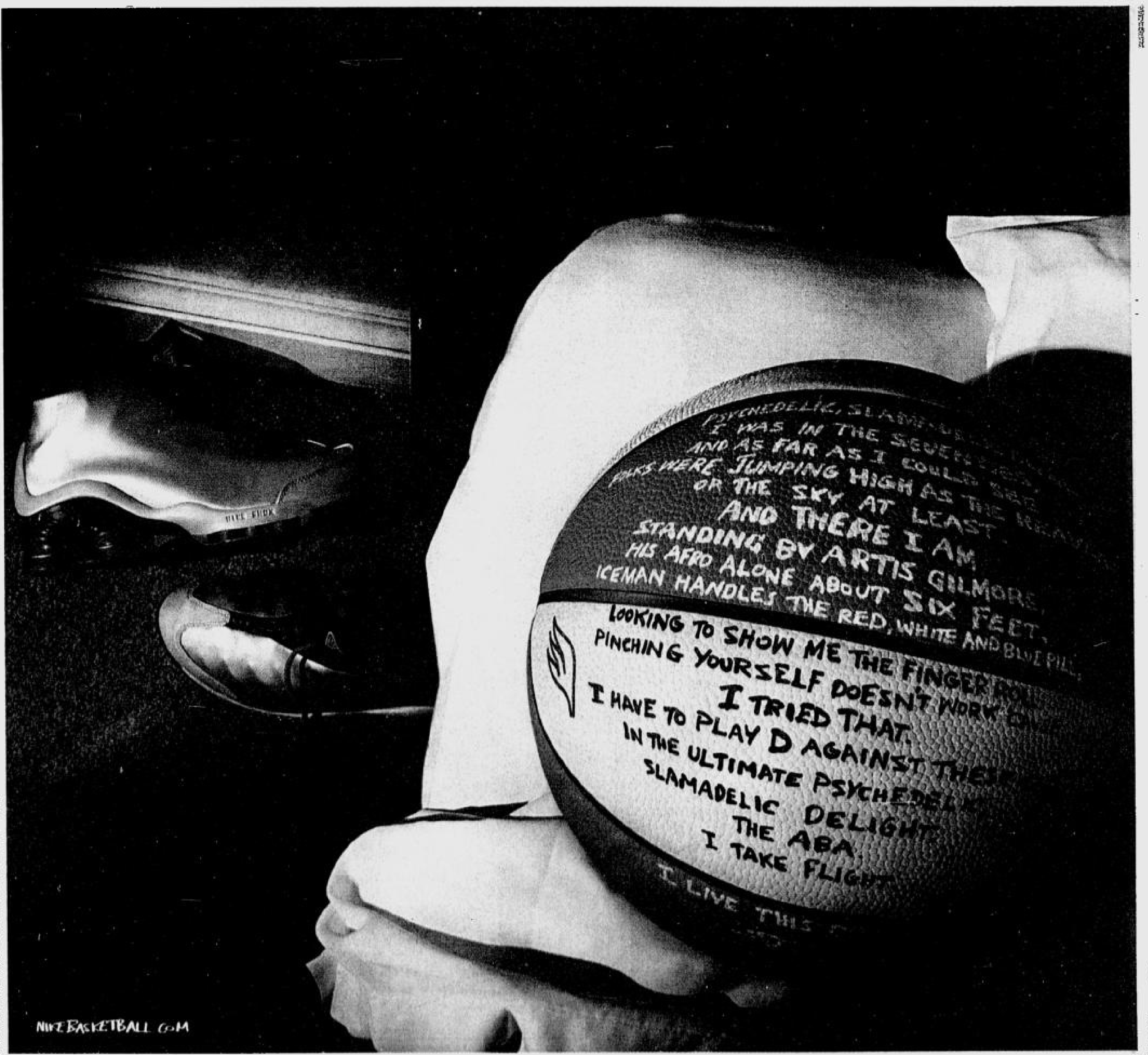
PSYCHEDELIC, SLAM
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OR THE SKY AT LEAST.
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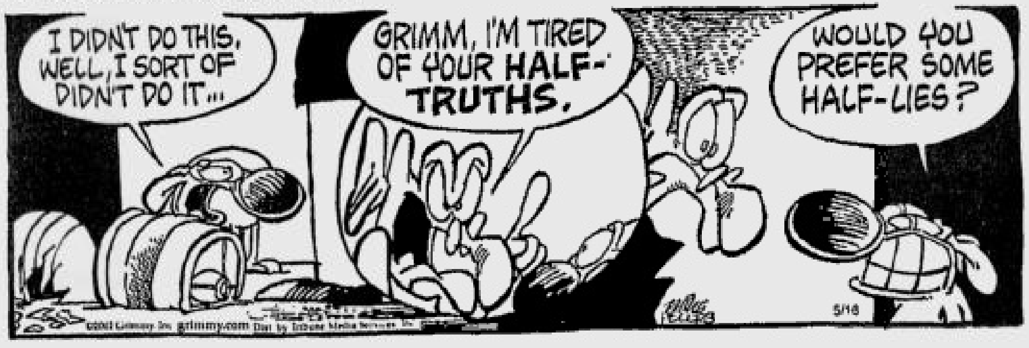
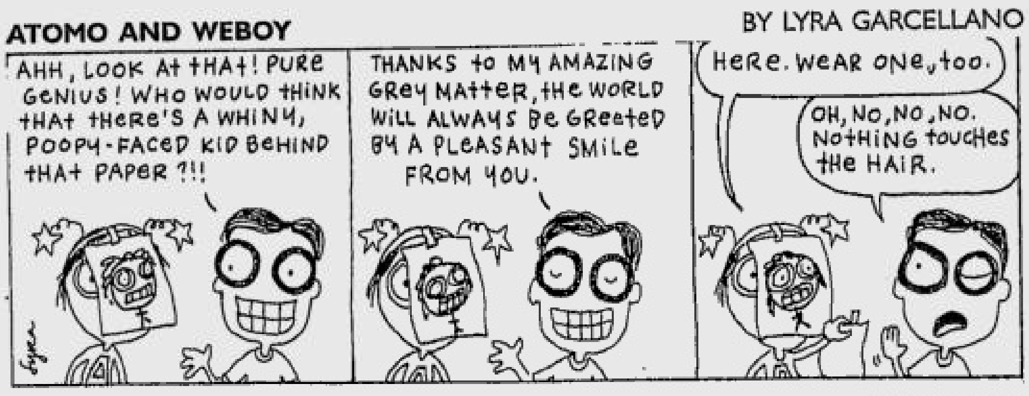
BY MIKE PETERS


I DIDN'T DO THIS. WELL, I SORT OF DIDN'T DO IT...
GRIMM, I'M TIRED OF YOUR HALF-TRUTHS.
WOULD YOU PREFER SOME HALF-LIES?
5/16

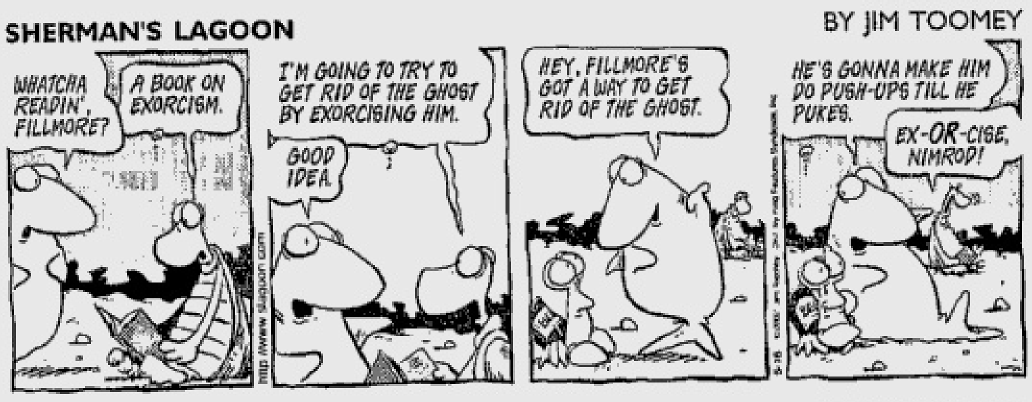
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AHH, LOOK AT THAT! PURE GENIUS! WHO WOULD THINK THAT THERE'S A WHINY, POOPY-FACED KID BEHIND THAT PAPER ?!!
THANKS TO MY AMAZING GREY MATTER, THE WORLD WILL ALWAYS BE GREETED BY A PLEASANT SMILE FROM YOU.
HERE. WEAR ONE, TOO.
OH, NO, NO, NO. NOTHING TOUCHES THE HAIR.

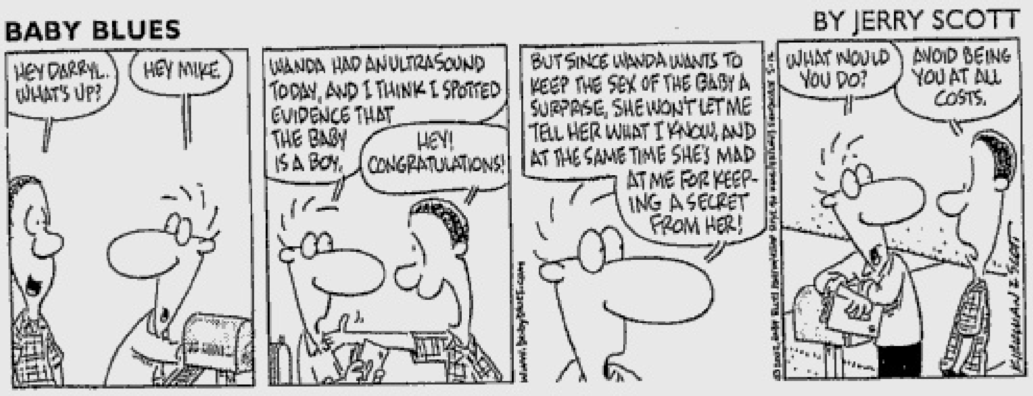
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHATCHA READIN', FILLMORE?
A BOOK ON EXORCISM.
I'M GOING TO TRY TO GET RID OF THE GHOST BY EXORCISING HIM.
GOOD IDEA.
HEY, FILLMORE'S GOT A WAY TO GET RID OF THE GHOST.
HE'S GONNA MAKE HIM DO PUSH-UPS TILL HE PUKES.
EX-OR-CISE, NIMROD!
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HEY DARRYL. WHAT'S UP?
HEY MIKE.
WANDA HAD AN ULTRASOUND TODAY, AND I THINK I SPOTTED EVIDENCE THAT THE BABY IS A BOY.
HEY! CONGRATULATIONS!
BUT SINCE WANDA WANTS TO KEEP THE SEX OF THE BABY A SURPRISE, SHE WON'T LET ME TELL HER WHAT I KNOW, AND AT THE SAME TIME SHE'S MAD AT ME FOR KEEPING A SECRET FROM HER!
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
AVOID BEING YOU AT ALL COSTS.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Debra Winger, Henry Fonda, Tori Spelling
Happy Birthday: Sudden changes of residence or changes in your home or personal life are likely. You will be eager to pursue financially promising ventures. You'll be on the go and eager to travel while being concerned with making things better for mankind. Your numbers are 7, 16, 22, 24, 31, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Open your doors for group meetings or just to a friend who needs to talk. A problem concerning an older individual is likely. Do the best you can to help.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take in a class that will teach you something interesting. Consider taking a trip to visit a relative who may reveal some interesting facts about your family background.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may be questioning your direction today. Consider what you always wanted to do and what you ended up doing. It doesn't matter your stage in life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't take life so seriously. You need to take a little time out to enjoy life's pleasures. Although things may not be to your liking today, if you are patient, things will turn out fine.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Someone you have to do business with will upset your emotional well-being. You can make some financial gains if you focus on worthwhile investments.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make a difference to a group that you feel has the same belief system you have. Your good deed now will bring you paybacks in the future. The people you meet along the way will be instrumental in your accomplishments.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Someone in an authoritative position may be on your case. If you work diligently you can avoid a confrontation. You will pick up additional information that will make your work that much better.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Start to think about your next vacation. You will find that you are more interested in learning and discovery today. The more you can absorb, the better.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You should be trying to find ways to make your residence more presentable. You should be able to make financial gains through wise investments today but don't spend what you don't have.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put your time and energy into your work in order to avoid some of the emotional ups and downs going on in your personal life. You should protect yourself from someone who is trying to mold you.

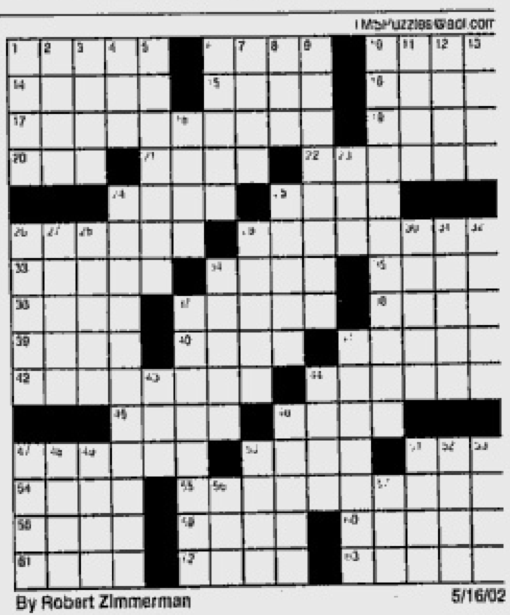
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can meet new people through work-related activities. Don't be afraid to mix business with pleasure. You will discover some of your hidden talents.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You should develop your creative talents today. Whatever you enjoy creating, this is the day to take the plunge and go that extra step. If you have a dream you must follow it.

Birthday Baby: You will love to debate social and philosophical issues. You will also love to read and will be a great scholar. You will be a world citizen and find yourself visiting many distant lands. Your interest in whatever everyone else is doing will be an education in itself.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert Zimmerman
San Diego, CA

5/16/02

ACROSS
1 __ d'art
6 Kuwaiti ruler
10 Poet Van Duyn
14 Andean beast
15 Henri's head
16 Actor Montand
17 1940 hit musical, going postal
19 Rowers
20 Lincoln or Fortas
21 Axton or Wilhelm
22 Pittsburgh philanthropist
24 Legendary marksman
25 Rushed
26 Exchanged for currency
29 Firmly constructed
33 "The Tempest" sprite
34 Paducah's river
35 Yesteryear
36 Actor Auberjonois
37 Like cactus
38 Inventor Elias
39 Jet-black
40 Give a hoot
41 Pine product
42 America's pastime
44 Light unit
45 Classroom temps
46 Three squared
47 Imperturbable assurance
50 Only fair
51 Decide
54 Fall faller
55 Fiddler's tune, going postal
58 Splinter group
59 Zimmer in Zurich
60 Upper class
61 Gemsbok
62 Condensations
63 Wash off

DOWN
1 __ podrida
2 Snitch
3 Quip
4 Aussie bird
5 North Carolinian
6 Type of alcohol
7 Essence
8 "__ Now or Never"
9 Hire again
10 Foster song, going postal
11 Ellipsoid
12 Stout's Wolfe
13 Org.
18 Unfeeling
23 Moray
24 Lone Star tune, going postal
25 Cast net
26 Gulf of Mex. neighbor
27 Showplace
28 Bathroom fixtures
29 Spin
30 Hangman's knot
31 1990 U.S Open winner Hale
32 Child-adult bridge
34 Milky stones
37 Sheath
41 Go on too long
43 Kind of rap?
44 Actress Kudrow
46 Typical patterns
47 Besides
48 Ibsen drama, "__ Gynt"
49 Diaphanous
50 Put away
51 Lena of "Havana"
52 Strokes
53 Elder or alder
56 __ v. Wade
57 Samuel's teacher

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

M	E	M	O	■	E	N	T	E	R	■	G	O	L	D
A	M	I	D	■	F	A	I	R	E	■	A	V	E	R
T	I	N	E	■	F	I	R	M	S	■	R	A	V	I
T	L	C	■	M	O	V	E	A	T	A	G	L	I	P
E	Y	E	S	O	R	E	■	■	L	U	I	■	■	■
■	■	W	H	A	T	■	P	E	E	K	A	B	O	O
S	T	O	U	T	■	G	L	A	S	S	■	U	M	A
C	O	R	N	■	S	E	A	R	S	■	E	M	I	T
A	D	D	■	S	C	A	N	S	■	C	A	P	T	S
M	O	S	S	H	A	R	T	■	V	A	S	E	■	■
■	■	■	I	O	N	■	■	D	E	S	T	R	O	Y
P	R	U	N	E	D	A	N	I	S	H	■	C	H	E
R	A	N	G	■	A	R	E	N	T	■	G	R	A	M
E	V	I	L	■	L	I	T	E	R	■	P	O	R	E
P	E	T	E	■	S	A	S	S	Y	■	S	P	A	N

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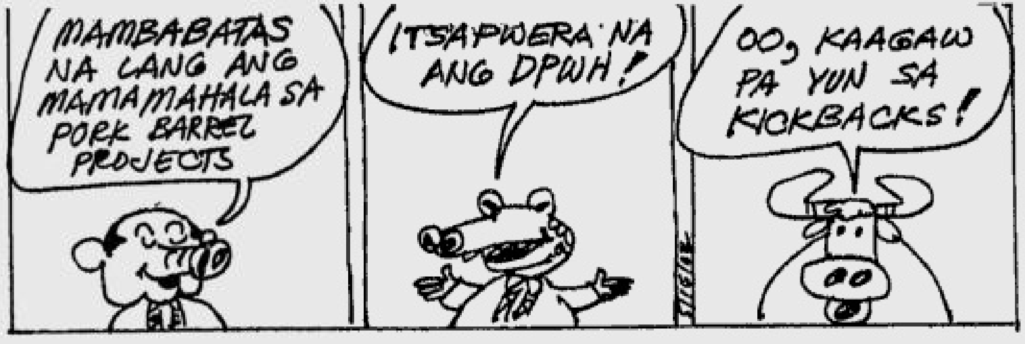
5/16/02

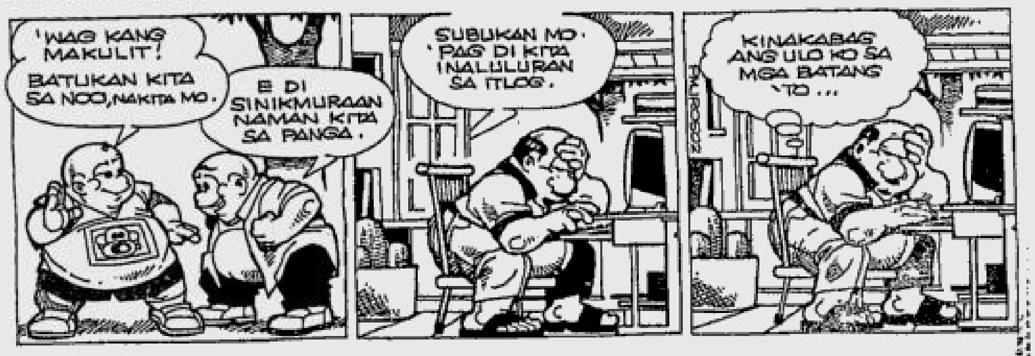
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAMBABATAS NA LANG ANG MAMAMAHALA SA PORK BARREL PROJECTS
ITSAPWERA NA ANG DPWH!
OO, KAAGAW PA YUN SA KICKBACKS!

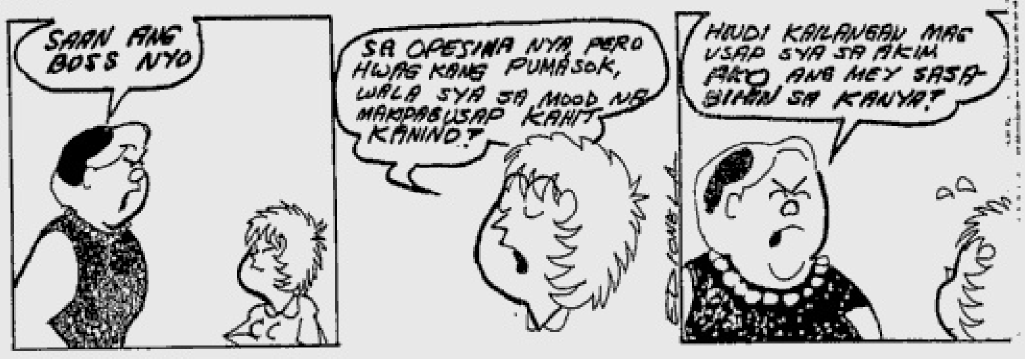
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


'WAG KANG MAKULIT! BATUKAN KITA SA NOO, NAKITA MO.
E DI SINIKMURAAN NAMAN KITA SA PANGA.
SUBUKAN MO. 'PAG DI KITA INALULURAN SA ITLOG.
KINAKABAG ANG ULO KO SA MGA BATANG 'TO ...

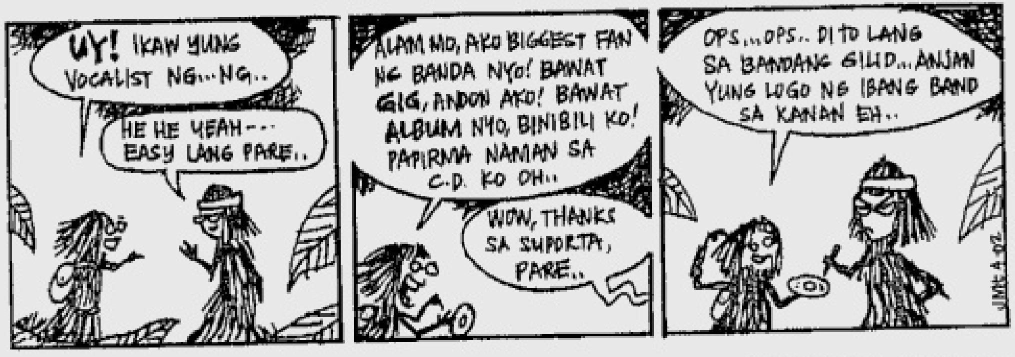
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SAAN ANG BOSS NYO
SA OPESINA NYA PERO HWAG KANG PUMASOK, WALA SYA SA MOOD NG MAKIPAGUSAP KAHIT KANINO?
HINDI KAILANGAN MAG USAP SYA SA AKIN AKO ANG MEY SASABIHIN SA KANYA?

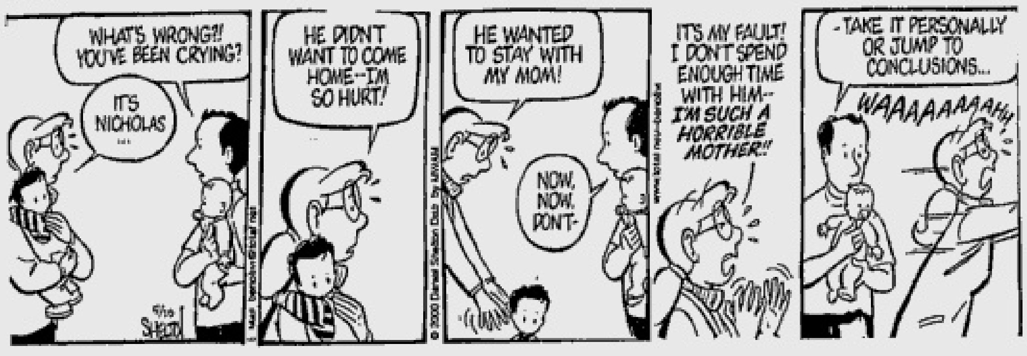
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


UY! IKAW YUNG VOCALIST NG...NG..
HE HE YEAH--- EASY LANG PARE..
ALAM MO, AKO BIGGEST FAN NG BANDA NYO! BAWAT GIG, ANDON AKO! BAWAT ALBUM NYO, BINIBILI KO! PAPIRMA NAMAN SA C.D. KO OH..
WOW, THANKS SA SUPORTA, PARE..
OPS...OPS.. DITO LANG SA BANDANG GILID... ANJAN YUNG LOGO NG IBANG BAND SA KANAN EH..

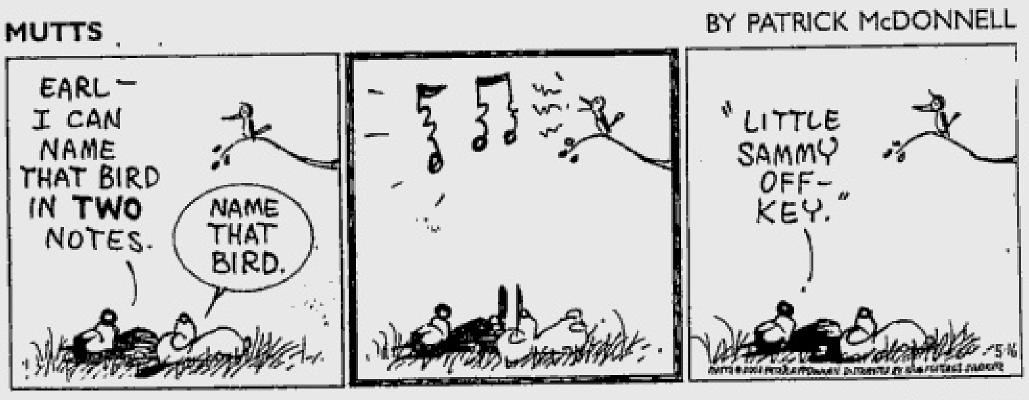
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT'S WRONG?! YOU'VE BEEN CRYING?
IT'S NICHOLAS ...
HE DIDN'T WANT TO COME HOME--I'M SO HURT!
HE WANTED TO STAY WITH MY MOM!
NOW, NOW, DON'T-
IT'S MY FAULT! I DON'T SPEND ENOUGH TIME WITH HIM-- I'M SUCH A HORRIBLE MOTHER!!
-TAKE IT PERSONALLY OR JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS...
WAAAAAAAAAHH

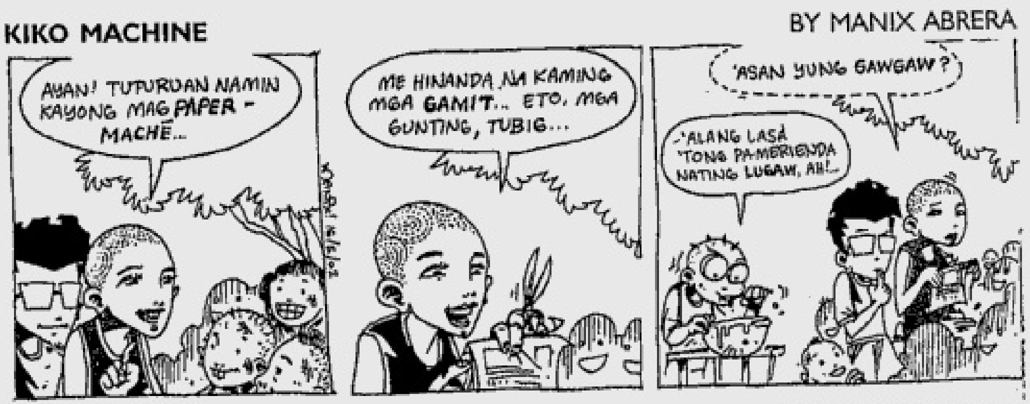
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EARL- I CAN NAME THAT BIRD IN TWO NOTES.
NAME THAT BIRD.
"LITTLE SAMMY OFF-KEY."
5-16

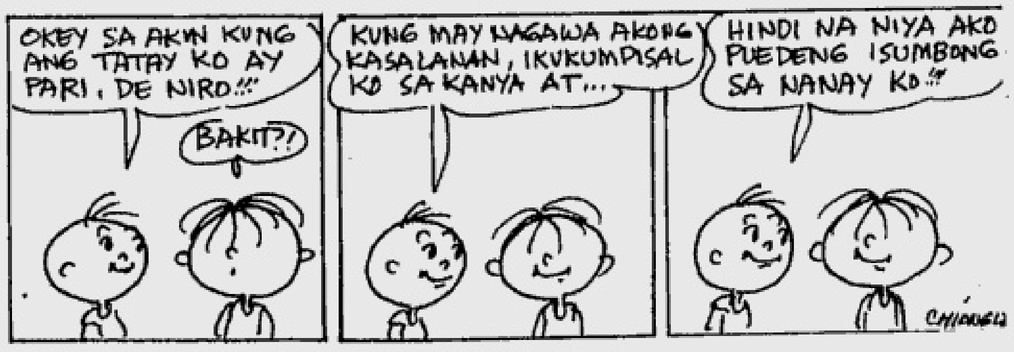
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AYAN! TUTURUAN NAMIN KAYONG MAG PAPER-MACHÉ...
ME HINANDA NA KAMING MGA GAMIT... ETO, MGA GUNTING, TUBIG...
'ASAN YUNG GAWGAW?
'ALANG LASA 'TONG PA-MERIENDA NATING LUGAW, AH!..

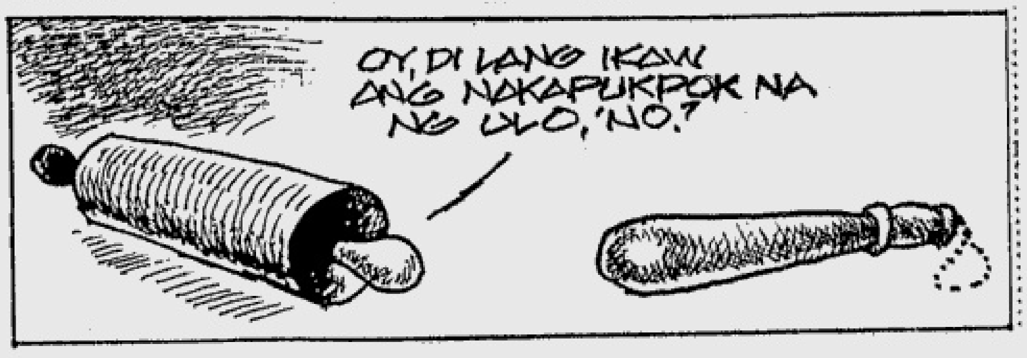
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

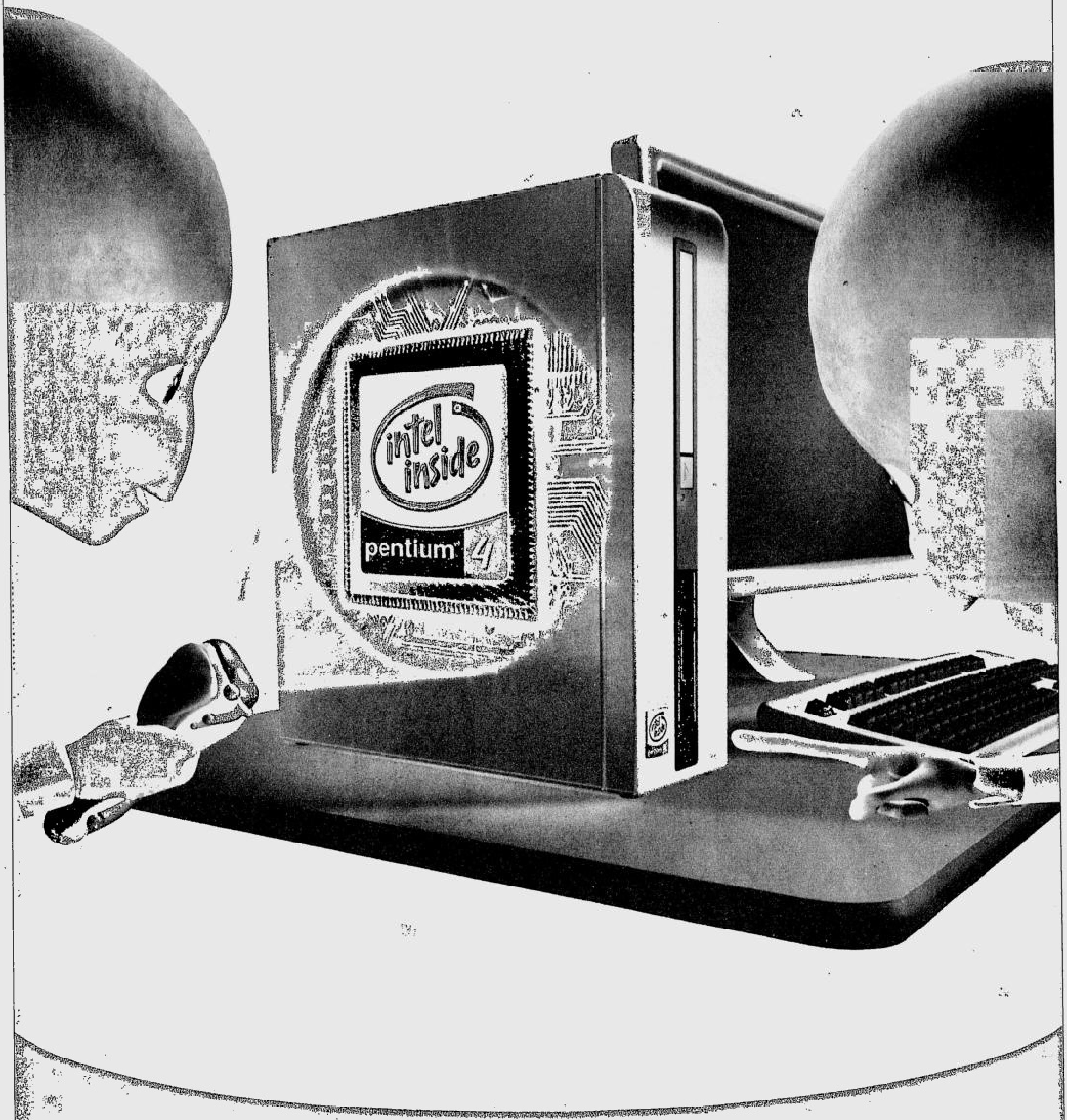

OKEY SA AKIN KUNG ANG TATAY KO AY PARI, DE NIRO!!"
BAKIT?!
KUNG MAY NAGAWA AKONG KASALANAN, IKUKUMPISAL KO SA KANYA AT...
HINDI NA NIYA AKO PUEDENG ISUMBONG SA NANAY KO!!"
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, DI LANG IKAW ANG NAKAPUKPOK NA NG ULO, 'NO?

For the **best performance**
it's **what's inside** that counts



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JUST LIKE HOME. Large and airy interiors

A QUIET nook to rest

Enchanting, filling forest restaurant

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Mike Alquinto

TUCKED in a quiet street a few kilometers away from the resorts that have made Nasugbu famous is a restaurant known for its excellent home cooking and rustic ambiance. Kainan Sa Dalampasigan is widely known among Nasugbu habitues as the place to dine when one craves for good old *lutong bahay*. Owned by the Limojoco and Lucas families, the restaurant began as a small snack bar back in 1974 that catered to the *merienda* needs of Rodolfo Lucas and his pelota-playing buddies. Today it has grown into a sprawling restaurant that can seat 500 guests, set in a forest-like garden complete with gazebos and a chapel for meditation. High ceilings, huge capiz windows and long wooden, narra tables and benches add to the laid-back, rustic ambiance.

Family place

The huge, airy restaurant is a family operation. Managing it is an amiable aunt called Ate Ida. Still busy in the kitchen is Teodora C. Limjoco or Lola Doray to Dalampasigan fans, the moving force behind the restaurant. Now 82 years old, the gentle, white-haired lady remains sprightly and actively supervises the dishes that come out of Dalampasigan's kitchen daily. Together with daughter Normita, she has created a menu that is a mix of Filipino and Spanish dishes. The Bilao sa Dalampasigan, which is filled with the best of the sea (*daing na bangus, inihaw na baboy, alimasag*, garlic shrimp and baked *tahong* with lemon butter sauce) is a top seller. Their *tanigue* with lemon butter sauce is an all-time favorite as is the Shrimps with Oyster Sauce. Portions at Dalampasigan are pretty generous, good enough for a family of four or five. Prices are also quite affordable ranging from an average of P140 for a vegetable dish to P300 for the huge Bilao sa Dalampasigan that can feed six. A juicy Crispy Pata can be had for P250 and a rich and filling pot of Kare-Kare for P180.

Dessert

After you have had your fill of the restaurant's bestsellers, make sure you have room for dessert as Kainan sa Dalampasigan also has the best *leche flan* and *halo-halo* in the entire Southern Luzon. Once you have tasted their concoction, every other *halo-halo* will pale in comparison. After your meal, you can let the food settle by taking a stroll through Lola Doray's sprawling gardens, which is wild and rambling but lovely and quaint. If you're blessed, you may even get a tour of the Limjoco-Lucas home and take a peek at their collection of cockatoos, parakeets and macaws that like to chatter and chirp the afternoon away. Afterward, find a quiet corner to rest awhile before heading back to the sea.

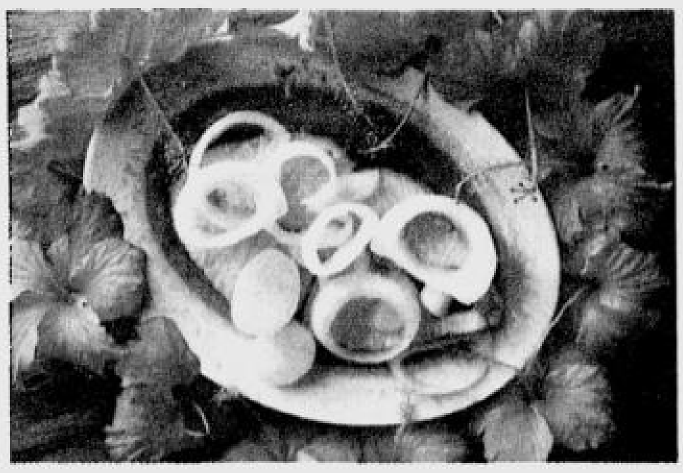
Kainan Sa Dalampasigan is located in Brgy. Bucana, Nasugbu, Batangas. Call (043) 931-1134 or 216-2590

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

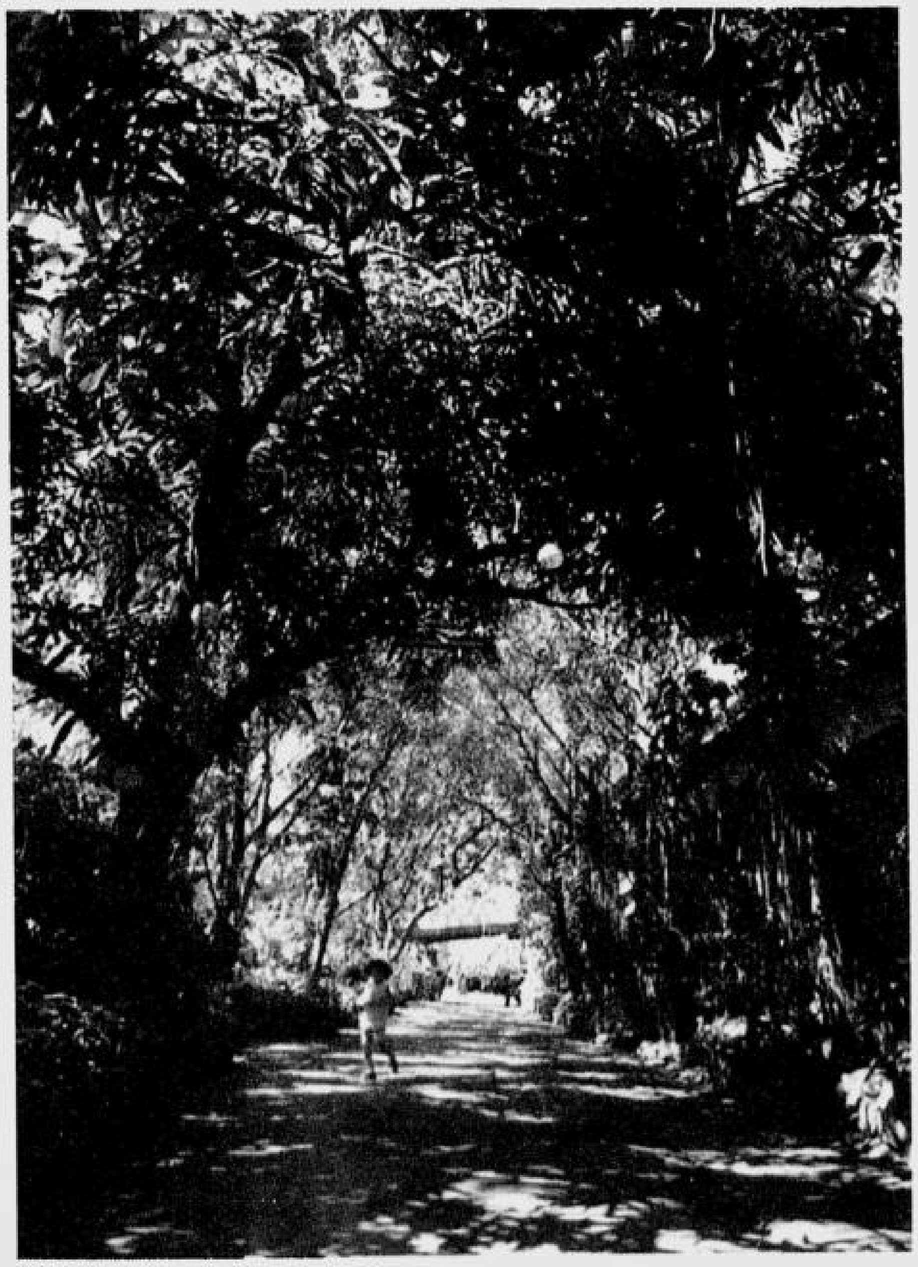
BILAO sa Dalampasigan

Kainan sa Dalampasigan in Nasugbu toasts the delicious bounty of nature with a dash of charm and hospitality

BILAO sa Dahon—*adobo, hipon* and tomatoes



TOP SELLER. Fried Tanigue



STROLL under age-old mango trees.

Exotic taste of Thai cuisine

SUKHOTHAI, located at SM Megamall and Glorietta, serves authentic Thai food prepared under the supervision of Thai chefs. Ernie Garcia, one of the restaurant owners, adds that aside from the exotic taste of Thai cuisine, what draws diners to Sukhothai is a certain similarity of some of the dishes to Pinoy food. For example, he says the very popular Bagoong Fried Rice has some resemblance to our *tapsilog*. Then, there is Phad Thai, which blends noodles, scrambled egg strips, bean sprouts (*togue*), onions, crushed peanuts and prawns.

For those dining at Sukhothai for the first time, Ernie recommends their set meal called Thai for 2, which includes Tom Yam (spicy and sour prawn soup), Bagoong Fried Rice, a stir-fried vegetable dish similar to chop suey, a choice of Chicken Wrapped in Pandan Leaves or deep-fried fish cakes, the option of beef in red curry or a shrimp dish. The shrimp may be cooked in the diner's choice of garlic-pepper or with a subtly sweet and sour tamarind sauce. For dessert, there's Ta Koh, a layered rice cake with thick coconut cream, *pandan* jelly and corn served in banana leaf cups. Thai for 2 costs P575.

Call Sukhothai Glorietta at 892-6855/6857 or Sukhothai Megamall at 634-1280/1738.

Below is a recipe of Phad Thai.

Phad Thai

250 g thick rice stick noodles
2 tbsp oil
3 cloves garlic, chopped
2 tsp chopped red chilies (optional)
150 g pork, thinly sliced
100 g peeled raw prawn meat, chopped
½ bunch garlic chives, chopped
2 tbsp fish sauce
2 tbsp lime juice
2 tsp soft brown sugar
2 eggs, beaten
1 c bean sprouts
Sprigs of fresh coriander
¼ c roasted peanuts, chopped

Soak the rice stick noodles in warm water for 10 minutes or until they are soft. Drain and set aside. Heat the oil in a wok or large frying pan. When oil is very hot, add garlic, chilies (optional) and pork; stir constantly for two minutes.

Add the prawn meat to the wok. Cook, stirring constantly for three minutes. Add the garlic chives and drained noodles to the wok; cover and cook for another minute. Add the fish sauce, lime juice, sugar and eggs to the wok. Toss well with tongs or two wooden spoons until heated through.

Sprinkle with sprouts, coriander and peanuts. Traditionally, it is served with crisp fried onion. Sift brown sugar and chopped peanuts on the side. Makes 4 servings.

Variation: Use chicken and/or tofu and other vegetables such as carrot or capsicum strips or shreds of *bok choy*.

To keep fit, modeling siblings go Japanese

FOR RISSA Mananquil-Samson, Robby and Raya Mananquil, maintaining their status as the fashion industry's hottest faces mean taking good care of their looks and health. The siblings agree that sticking to a healthy yet filling diet is the best way to keep themselves fit and healthy. This is why Rissa, Robby and Raya are fans of Japanese cuisine, one of the healthiest methods of cooking.

The Mananquil siblings recently headed out to SM Southmall to try the new Japanese fast-food chain Yoshinoya. The restaurant was a delight to the siblings since Yoshinoya offers more than the usual Japanese fare. With choice of sumptuous beef, chicken and pork rice bowls, low-calorie side vegetables and refreshing Green Iced Tea, they found out that eating fast food can also be eating healthy.

The siblings made their picks of favorite Yoshinoya offerings. Rissa raved about Yoshinoya's Chicken Bowl, a hearty meal of steaming rice topped with terriyaki chicken and vegetables. "It's a filling yet very healthy meal," says Rissa, a business management graduate at the Ateneo de Manila and a sought-after model whose face has graced many a magazine cover. The newest face of Benetton and a young fashion columnist, Rissa appreciates a good and filling meal but also knows the importance of a balanced diet.

Rissa's twin brother Robby is also careful with what he eats. Busy with his ad stints as the newest Bench model, this UP Fine Arts graduate is also a member of ABS-CBN's Star Circle Batch 10, a mainstay of the network's new comedy series "Klasmeyt," a painter and a DJ. Despite the hectic schedule, Robby always makes time to visit the gym to maintain a toned body. And he also makes sure he eats heartily and healthily. For their special lunch, it's the Yoshinoya Beef & Chicken Combo Bowl that Robby likes best. "It's a great deal to get such hefty servings of rice, vegetables and meat from just one bowl," comments Robby.

ROBY Mananquil, Raya Mananquil and Rissa Mananquil-Samson

Raya completes this talented trio. Chosen as one of Manila's Five Loveliest a few years back and now the image model of hip clothing line Folded & Hung, Raya is now juggling her calendar between modeling assignments and school, as she is in her last year at the Ateneo de Manila University taking up interdisciplinary studies. The baby of the Mananquil family, Raya admits to having a sweet tooth, which was why it was Yoshinoya's desserts that got her attention. To satisfy her sweet tooth, the rising runway and commercial model gave herself a treat with Yoshinoya's Halo-Halo Cocktail. "It's the best way to cap off a healthy and delicious meal, and it doesn't hurt to have some sweets once in a while," Raya says.

The Mananquil siblings also raved about Yoshinoya's favorite drink, the Green Iced Tea, a specially formulated iced tea exclusive to the fast-food chain.

Rissa, Robby and Raya definitely found a place to get delicious yet healthy food to keep them trim and fit. With Yoshinoya's nourishing offerings, the Mananquil siblings will surely go back for more.

Collectible walkie-talkies now available

INCOMING transmission from Jedi headquarters: Anakin Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi wannabes can't fight the evil Sith and save the universe without their trusty light sabers—and their new Jollibee Star Wars walkie-talkies!

As the "Attack of the Clones" begins this summer, go to Jollibee and equip yourselves with the Jollibee Star Wars walkie-talkies, authentically styled two-piece "Star Wars" walkie-talkie set designed after the dependable droids R2-D2 and C-3PO. Activate the two-way radios and communicate with your Jedi friends from a distance of up to 50 ft, or send an SOS to intergalactic allies using the radio's Morse Code-capable keypad.

The collectible walkie-talkie set comes with two free nine-volt batteries to power the droids, and is available for P250 with a minimum food purchase of only P50.

STAR WARS
EPISODE II

Best Picture

A Beautiful Mind, Gladiator, American Beauty, Shakespeare In Love, Titanic, The English Patient, Braveheart, Forrest Gump, Schindler's List, Unforgiven, The Silence Of The Lambs, Dances With Wolves, Driving Miss Daisy, Rain Man, The Last Emperor, Platoon, Out Of Africa, Amadeus, Terms Of Endearment, Gandhi

Best Actor

Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe, Kevin Spacey, Roberto Benigni, Jack Nicholson, Geoffrey Rush, Nicolas Cage, Tom Hanks, Al Pacino, Anthony Hopkins, Jeremy Irons, Daniel Day Lewis, Dustin Hoffman, Michael Douglas, Paul Newman, William Hurt, F. Murray Abraham, Robert Duvall, Ben Kingsley, Henry Fonda, Robert de Niro

Best Actress

Halle Berry, Julia Roberts, Hilary Swank, Gwyneth Paltrow, Helen Hunt, Frances McDormand, Susan Sarandon, Jessica Lange, Holly Hunter, Emma Thompson, Kathy Bates, Jessica Tandy, Jodie Foster, Cher, Marlee Matlin, Geraldine Page, Sally Field, Shirley MacLaine, Meryl Streep, Katharine Hepburn, Sissy Spacek

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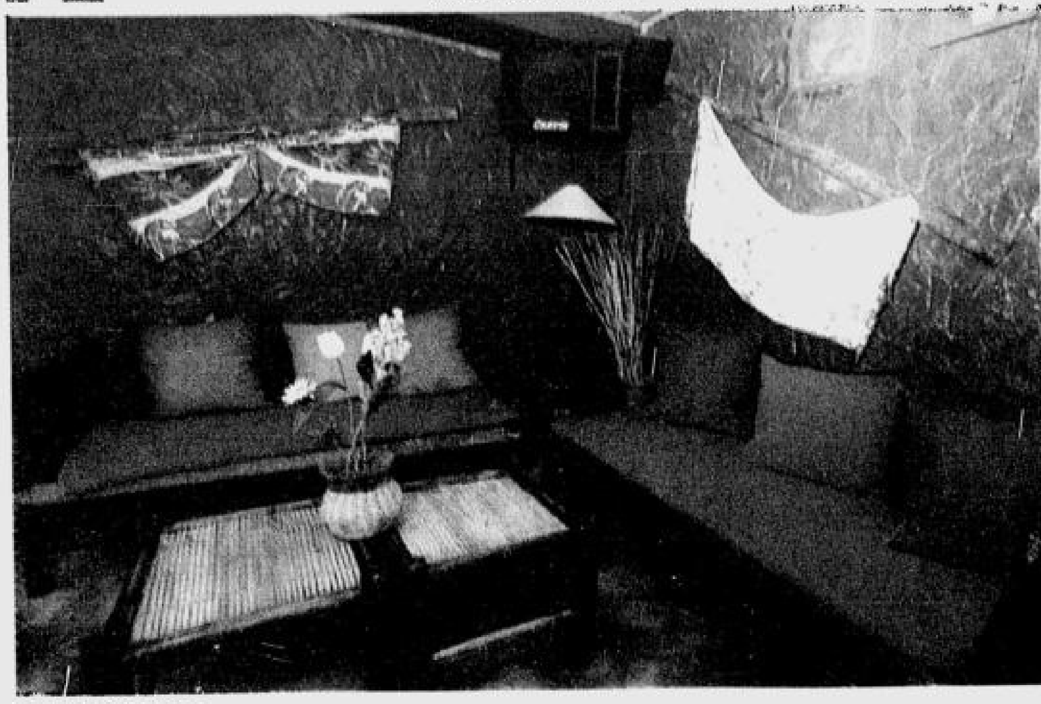
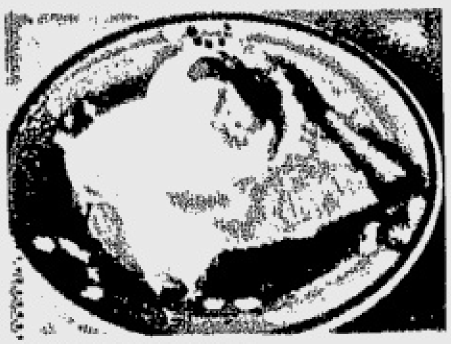
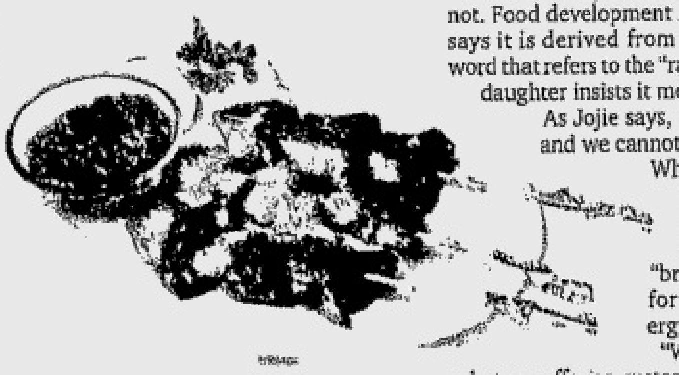

THE BLUE Lounge

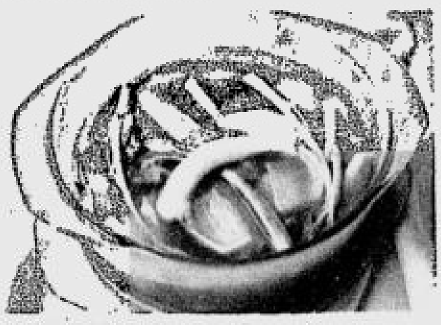
THE YELLOW Lounge

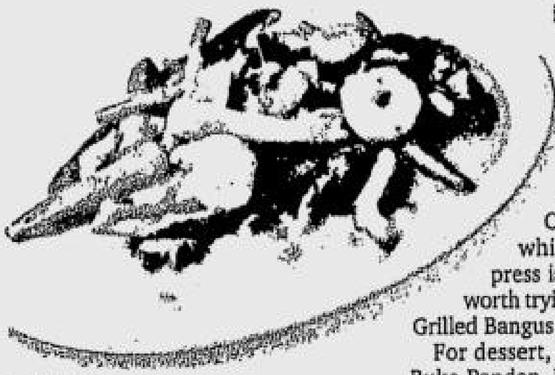
Going ethnic and acoustic by the ridge


ICE cream topped turon


CHICKEN Tail

CRISPY Binagoongan


SINIGANG na Tyan ng Bangus


BICOL Express

By Remy M. Umerez
Contributor
Photos By Ernie U. Sarmiento

WORD-OF-MOUTH quickly spreads whenever a good eatery opens. The 6-month-old Tapika Restaurant (220 Katipunan Road, Blue Ridge; tel. 647-8033) is a perfect example. The parking lot is always full, an indication that business is doing well.

The word "*tapika*" sounds Mexican, but it is not. Food development manager Jojie Jacobe says it is derived from an American Indian word that refers to the "rays of the sun," but her daughter insists it means brotherhood.

As Jojie says, "We had it registered and we cannot change it anymore."

Which is just as well because, whether Tapika symbolizes "rays of the sun" or "brotherhood," it stands for a lot of positive energy.

"We try to be the best in what we offer so customers will keep coming back," says Jojie, who is as gracious a hostess as they come.

She is one of six friends who pooled their resources together to open Tapika and whose friendship dates back to first grade in school. They had to put a lot of work in the interiors as the place used to be a beer joint. Lots of wood and ethnic detailing were put in. A plus point for this restaurant is that the restrooms are roomy, clean, well-appointed and have not been left out of the tribal theme.

Grilled and hot

What Tapika does best are grilled entrées, although there are more than 50 dishes listed on the menu. Among the appetizers, Chicken Tail Barbecue marinated in peanut sauce is a bestseller. The secret is in the special sauce when it comes to Balut à la Pobre, a must-taste. Tapika is the only place where the delicacy is served in a steak platter, a presentation both exotic and inviting.

Lovers of *sisig* have two kinds to choose from. The favored one is Pork Sisig, which is absolutely crispy, not mushy. For lesser-calorie alternative, there's the Bangus Sisig. Other crispy delights are Pork Binagoongan and Crispy Hito, which is served with eggplant salad on the side.

The Bicol Express is a top favorite, together with the Hipon (prawn) Express, which is cooked in *aligue* (*taba ng talangka*) and coconut milk.

Jojie points out that consistency in *timpla* and discovering the right sauce makes a dish an instant hit. One of their cooks is from Bicol, which explains why Tapika's Express is very authentic. Some others worth trying are Salmon Belly with Miso, Grilled Bangus Belly and Aligue Rice.

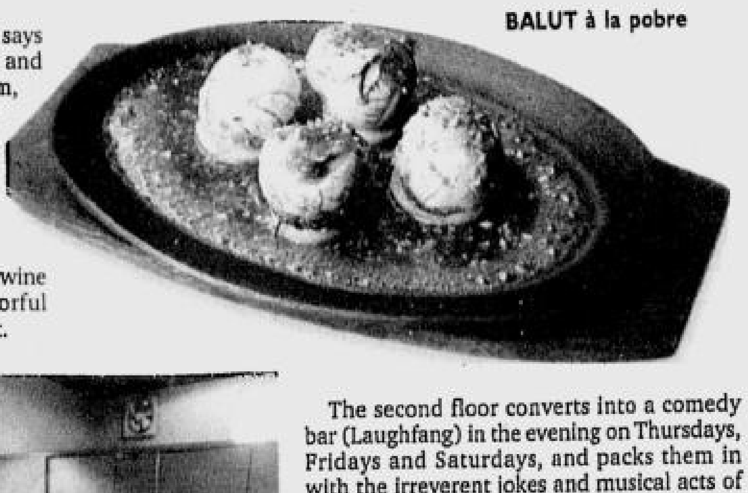
For dessert, the most popular choices are Buko Pandan, Leche Flan and Tapika Turon, which is served à la mode.

LUNCH is served.

Operations consultant Chiqui Gerundo says lunch and dinner always attract families, and even students from nearby Ateneo, Miriam, PSBA and UP. The yuppies come in after dinner for an evening of drinks and acoustic music with the *barkada*.

Summer special

Tapika can sit 110 people and the most after sought corners are the Yellow and Blue lounges, which are ideal for sipping wine and more laid-back conversations. Colorful throw pillows provide additional comfort.


BALUT à la pobre

SPACIOUS women's room with wood and ethnic accent

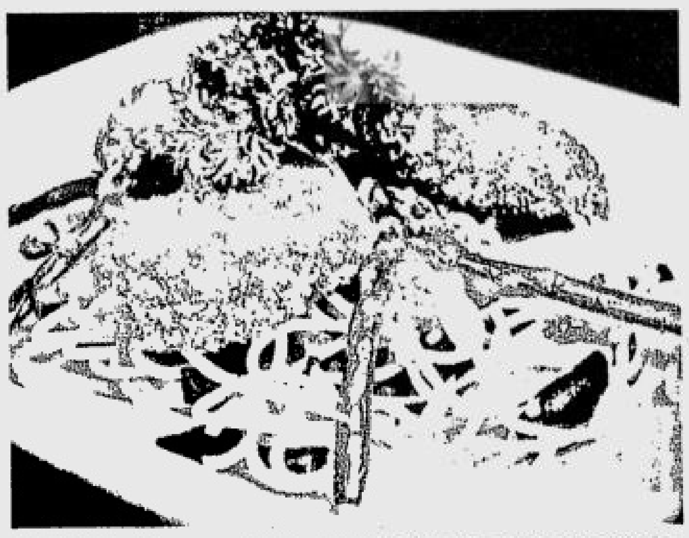
The second floor converts into a comedy bar (Laughfang) in the evening on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and packs them in with the irreverent jokes and musical acts of stand-up comedians.

Other days, the upper floor may be booked for a wedding reception, a birthday party or any other function. There is also an al fresco section on the second floor where a group of 20 can hold seminars or monthly meetings.

These summer months, Tapika has an ongoing Barkada Blowout, a special offer of grilled combinations that allows a person to save as much as P320 for a group consisting of eight to 10 diners.

A grilled special for a group of six (P250 savings) is a *bilao* filled with Chicken and Pork Barbecue, Liempo, Squid, Tanigue, Ensaladang Mangga and Pandan Rice.

If you like Filipino food, especially the grilled kind, take an express ride to Katipunan.



SHIITAKE al Pepperocini (spaghetti, olive oil, garlic and shiitake mushroom)

SAIKORO Steak (Japanese salpicao)

RIB-EYE steak for Yakiniku

Japanese restaurant introduces new appetizers

AT EBISU Grill, you can enjoy a full meal or simply hang out with friends for drinks and appetizers at reasonable prices.

The newly introduced spicy tuna salad (tuna with spicy cream sauce), Hotate (fried scallops), Okonomiyaki (Japanese pizza) and Shiitake Shinjo-Age (stuffed Shiitake mushrooms) join sushi and sashimi as favorites among the nearly three dozen appetizers. Some of the Yakiniku or grilled specials are the US Black Angus Rib-Eye, Australian Lamb and Tiger Prawns combined with Ebisu's special sauce and garlic *yaki*. You may choose to handle the grilling duties yourself or have the staff expertly wield the chopsticks as they flip the quick-grilling meat or seafood to perfection.

À la carte meals include Shake no Miso Butter, seared salmon marinated in *miso* topped with *wasabi* butter; Saikoro steak or Japanese *salpicao*; Teriyaki Hamburger steak topped with shiitake mushroom; Shiitake al Pepperocini, spaghetti cooked with olive oil and garlic mixed with shiitaki mushroom; Ebisu Chicken, teppanyaki chicken in garlic soy marinade; and the Katsu Curry, breaded pork chop with Japanese curry sauce. Round off your dining adventure with the exquisite Banana Fritters, fried bananas coated with batter and served with ice cream, or with Buttered Rum Cake à la Mode. Ebisu also boasts of lunch specials for as low as P190++ (*katsudon*, *gyudon* and tendon).

It's buy-one, take-one for all local beers and 10-percent off on cocktail drinks during happy hours from 5:30-8:30 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. Ignite your Saturday night as Ebisu extends its hours with Ebisu's specialty drink, the Kamikaze Shaker, guaranteed to stir your senses.

Located at 146-B Jupiter St., Makati (tel. 890-8014/7992 and 896-6475), Ebisu is also available for cocktail parties and events. Valet parking is available.

HOTATE (fried scallops)

Music and dancing mark Jamaican bar-resto's opening tonight

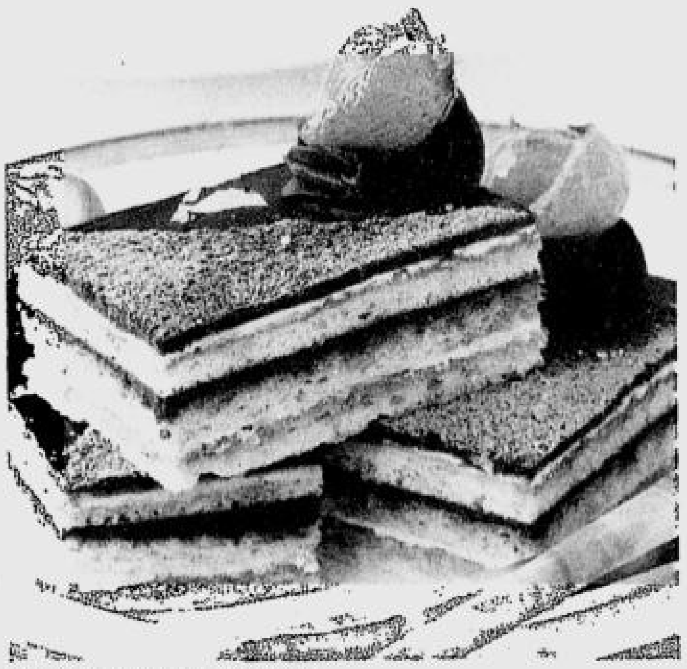
DINING OUT

NOTED chef and restaurateur Nicky Camcam formally opens the doors of Montego Jamaican Bar and Restaurant today. Montego is located at the Fuente Circle in Eastwood City, Libis, QC. Montego is a Jamaican/Caribbean restaurant that specializes in cuisine coming from the islands. Since olive oil is one of the key ingredients in bringing out the flavor of Caribbean dishes, Nicky joins forces with Oriental Merchants Inc., the local distributor of Ybarra Olive Oil from Spain. Aside from good food, expect a lot of music and dancing at tonight's grand opening.

BARACCO CAFÉ, the newly opened fine-dining specialty restaurant located on Ma. Y. Orosa Street, Malate, recently presented its in-house specialties like European pasta, grilled seafood and coffee-blended concoctions.

DON HENRICO'S introduces a new line-up of special meals that feature rice dishes plus other filling concoctions. Satisfy your craving with Don Henrico's Shrimp Creole, Chicken Parmesan, Baked Hickory BBQ Ribs, Baked Chicken in Hickory BBQ Sauce, Hot Chili Boat and Hot Fish and Wedgies. Rice toppings are the all-time favorites of numerous diners. These meals come in huge portions, which are ideal for sharing with family and friends.

BURGOO American Bar and Restaurant offers four brilliant choices, meticulously prepared by Burgoo's managing director Albert Alavera and general manager Eileen Necio-Ingalla.
Pick your choice: Srimp Pomelo Salad (combination of grilled shrimps with Romaine lettuce, sweet pomelo chunks, delicious nuts, in a special Thai dressing), Grilled Steak and Steamed Salmon Supreme (grilled to perfection tenderloin steak and fresh steamed Norwegian salmon, served with classic Caesar's salad and specially prepared mashed potatoes), Prawns Cacciatore (four pieces black tiger prawns, sauced in oil and garlic with mushrooms, bell peppers, red tomatoes, spaghetti pasta in a special cacciatore sauce), and Seafood Jambalaya (combination of fresh New Zealand mussels, shrimps, calamari, bell peppers, mushrooms and green peas, tossed with chunky stewed tomatoes in a special Jambalaya rice).
Burgoo's branches are at: Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City; 3/L, Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City; and 2/L, The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Call 927-7424, 898-1815 or 687-5254.



BITTER sweet chocolait opera

POMELO-SHRIMP salad with Thai Dressing

EDSA SHANGRI-LA'S Garden Cafe presents "Seafood Splendor" until May 31. A special addition to the Asian/Continental lunch and dinner buffet, this summer food trip offers a grill station, which includes imported lobsters. Other buffet entrees are baked *gindara* with teriyaki sauce, seafood pasta, crispy *lapu-lapu* with Thai chili, pan-fried seaperch with dill sauce, seafood skewers, baked mussels, poached salmon with tarragon cream, escalope of salmon and tuna steak. Local favorites include kilawing tanguigue, adobong hito, garlic ulang, steamed *tilapia* and *halabos na hipon*. The buffet is complete with salads and soups. As a bonus treat, dine in a group of 20s and get a complimentary overnight stay for two. Call 633-8888 local 12927 to 12929.

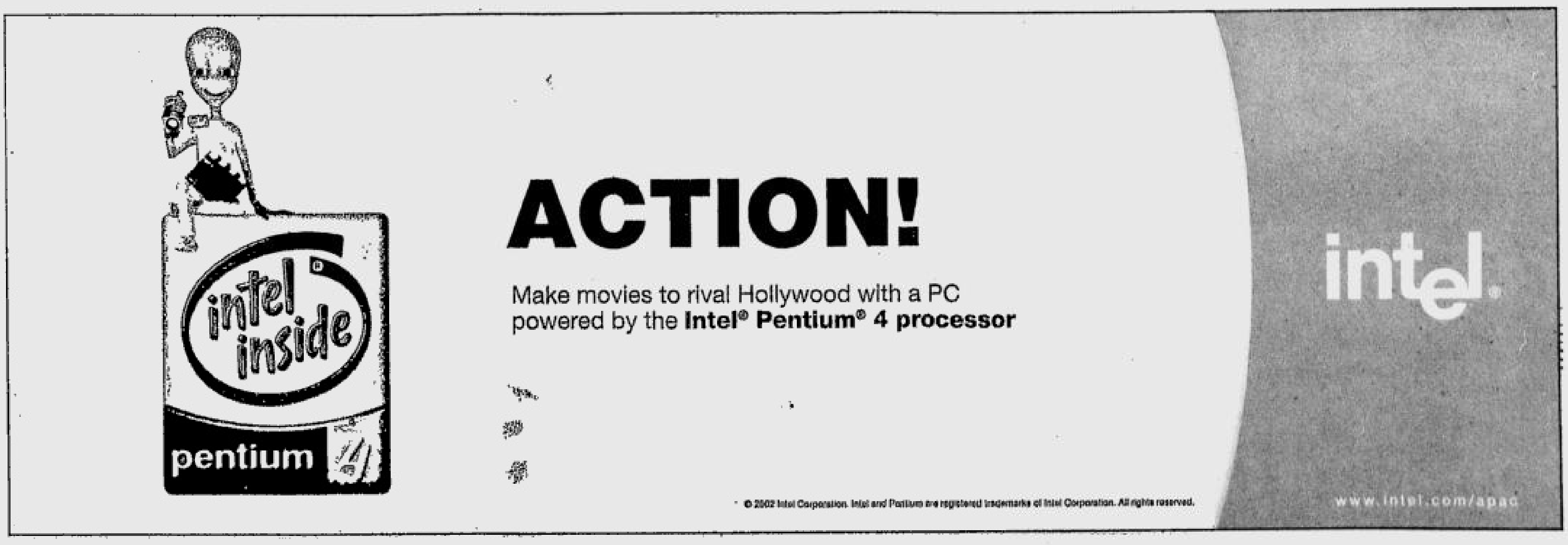
NEW WORLD RENAISSANCE HOTEL'S Bocarinos Restaurant welcomes diners to the land of tapas in "Too Many Tapas." Promo runs until May 31. Sample Grilled Baby Squid, Baby Eel in Garlic Sauce Shrimp and Cheese Croquettes, Octopus with Red Peppers and Potatoes and Clams in Sherry Sauce complemented by Spanish wines. The hotel also takes you to a trip aboard via the "Shanghai Express." Experience the cuisine of this Chinese region from May 21 to June 2.
The authentic Shanghainese cuisine is prepared by master chefs from the Shanghai Marriott Hotel Hongqiao. The Emperor Court will feature Shanghai dishes as part of its lunch and dinner buffets as well as a special a la carte menu. Sample Pork Knuckle "Zhenjiang" Style, Fried Crab with Salted Egg Yolk, Sautéed Fillet of Beef with Green Chili, Shanghainese Fried Noodles. The Lobby Lounge offers a special dimsum menu of Pork Dumpling, with Shanghainese Vinegar and Ginger, Fish and Sweet Corn Cake, Squid and Spring Onion Cake. Sweet dessert dimsum caps the Shanghainese Dimsum Menu. Call 811-6888 local 3318.

MANILA MIDTOWN HOTEL'S Vogue Coffeeshop goes loco over Spain until May 18. Paella, calamares, gambas, tapas, huevos fritos and tortilla españa are presented in this lunch and dinner fiesta. Sample Paella, Zarzuela de Mariscos (Shell-Fish Stew), Trouya de Vitela (Marinated Veal Roast with Red Onion) and Lombo de Porco Com Pimento Vermelbos Doces (Marinated Porkloin with Sweet Red Peppers). Then cap this with Crepes Senorita and Brazo de Mercedes. Avail of a complimentary glass of white wine in your dinner buffet. Call 526-7001 local 6554.

MAKATI SHANGRI-LA'S Gourmet Corner will feature an array of fanciful cakes until June 30. Included in this special promotion are some of the hotel's popular cake specialties such as Tiramisu, Chocolate Truffle Cake as well as Shang Cheese Cake. Call 813-5054/8888 local 7463.

MANILA GALLERIA SUITES in Ortigas Center presents a two-week International Feast at the hotel's Raphael Cafe-Restaurant. Sample a spread of the world's most loved dishes, exclusively prepared by renowned chef Stefan Farkas.
Taste the flavors of Europe with Bugottini Napoletan, Mini Pizzas and Penne Rigata, then try the flavors of the Sea with Fried Pla-pla, Breaded Mussels with Picanta Sauce and Lapu-lapu Escabeche. A Japanese corner features sashimi and sushi. There's also a shabu-shabu station where you can have your choice of meats and veggies plus mouth-watering desserts. Call 633-7111 local 7440/7416.

THE MANDARIN Deli introduces five innovative burgers. The new burgers offer a range of flavors, from Latin American bravura to Middle Eastern and Mediterranean mystique. Diners may try Holy Guacamole bacon cheeseburger, spiced with Jalapeno peppers and Monterey Jack cheese contained in a corn oatmeal bun. Fish lovers may enjoy Tasmanian salmon burger with whipped lactos cream cheese and wasabi mayonnaise. "Arabian Nights," a lamb burger with hummus and goat cheese served with a minted yoghurt cucumber salad, is a must for lamb lovers. Those who prefer a taste of the Wild West may indulge in the "Texmex burger," a barbecue roast beef burger with deep-fried onion rings, cheddar cheese and cilantro tomato salsa. The classic cheeseburger also gets a new twist, with three kinds of cheese to enhance the taste of broiled beef burger with lettuce, tomato, pickles, cucumber. Available daily from 11 a.m.-11 p.m. until May 31. Call 750-8888 local 2415.



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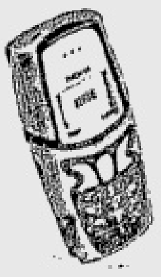

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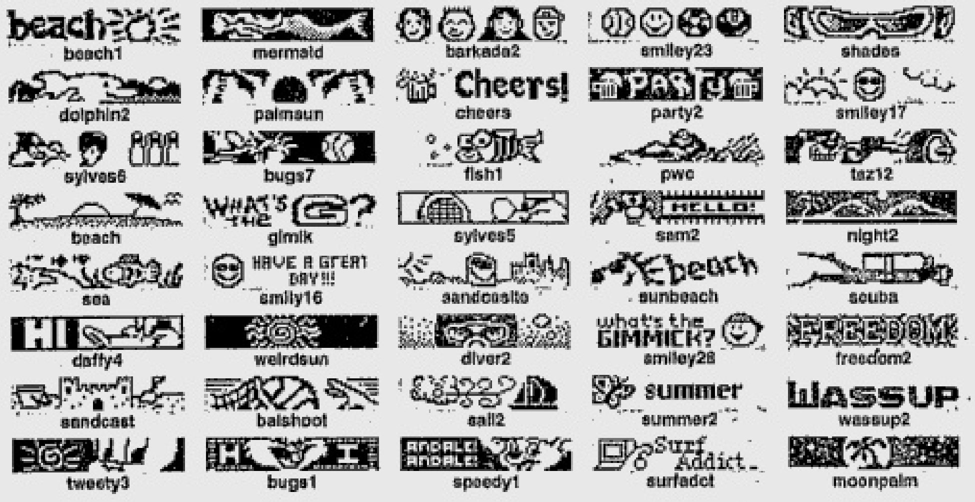
icons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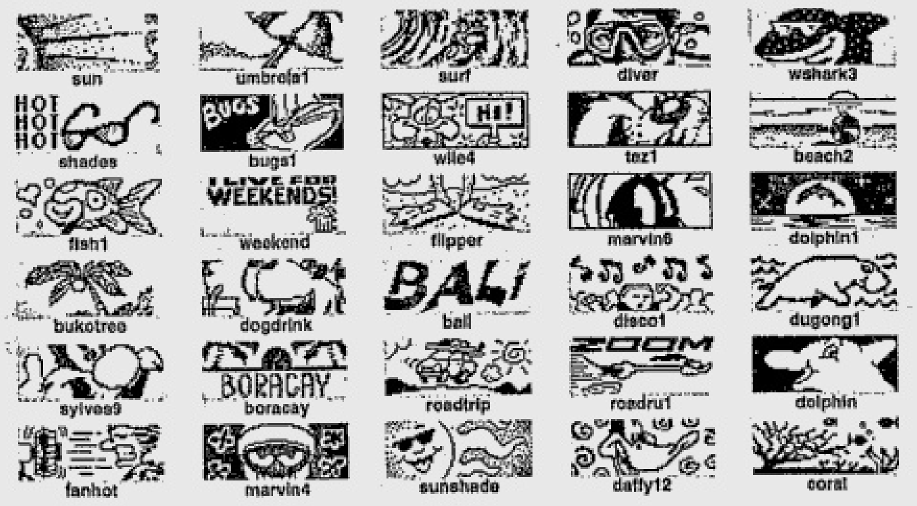
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tones

TITLE	ARTIST	NOKIA KEYWORD
baywatch	theme from baywatch	N baywatch
fun fun fun	the beach boys	N funfun
summer holiday	cliff richard	N summer
surfer girl	beach boys	N surfgirl
surfin safari	beach boys	N surfsaf
walking on sunshine	katrina and the waves	N wokonsun
boys	britney spears	N boys
slave for you	britney spears	N slave4u
i love rock 'n roll	britney spears	N ilovroc
clint eastwood	gorillaz	N thereyou
19-2000	gorillaz	N 19200
awit ng barkada	apo hiking society	N barkada
red velvet	outkast	N redvelv
superman	five for fighting	N superman
this is love	pj harvey	N thislove
volare	jamiroquai	N volare
butterflyz	alicia keys	N butterf
ms. jackson	outkast	N msjackso
b.o.b. (bombs over baghdad)	outkast	N bob
there you'll be	faith hill	N thereyou

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LIFESTYLE

BHARVAN Jhinga Kulcha (*naan* filled with tartar of prawns, cubed bell pepper, spring onions and cheese)

CLOCKWISE: Dum Ki Daal, Tarriwala Murgh, Methi Chaman and Nali Rogan Josh

A feast of flavors

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

THE FOOD of North India, a cuisine traced to that of Persian nomads who entered India in the 11th century, is featured at the Manila Peninsula's Spices restaurant from May 6 to 19. Indian food in Manila is always good news, first, because so many are familiar with it (being of Indian blood, experience, or affinity) or curious about it; yet there are few Indian restaurants or occasions for tasting something new or different.

The Mogul emperors, explains Chef Sandeep Ahluwalia, brought with them Persian and Afghan cooks who introduced fresh and dried fruit, and cashews, pistachios and almonds in meat dishes; rich and fragrant rice dishes such as *pilafs* and *biryanis;* and a variety of dairy products. The 48-item menu he and the Spices team are presenting include the familiar and the unfamiliar, spiced and flavored from the trunkful of spices he brought in with him from Delhi.

Glimpse of glory

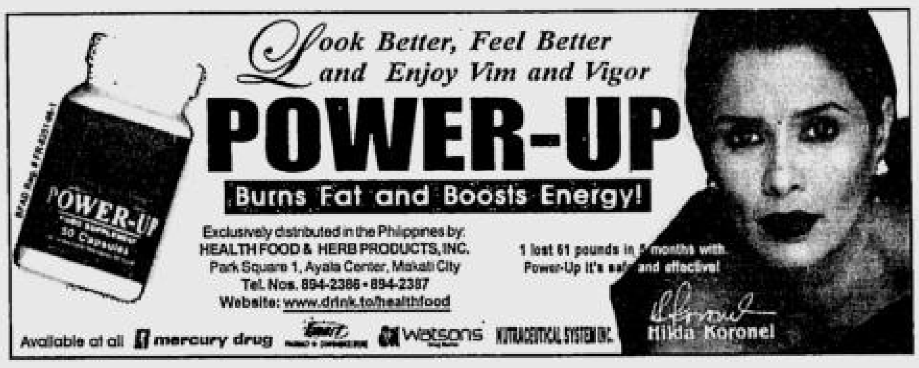
A *menu degustation* he prepared as a glimpse of the menu's full glory started with *lassi*, the yoghurt drink sweet (mango, banana) or unsweetened that prepares the palate for the rich variety to follow.

> Indian food in Manila is always good news because of familiarity with it or curiosity about it

Appetite-teasers he chose from the whole menu: Tandoori Jhinga, tandoor-grilled prawns marinated in *ajwain, fereen* cardamom and lemon juice, sizzling on a platter its on-the-edge spiciness exciting. Adhrak Ke Punje, little lamb chops cooked tender with cardamom and saffron-flavored milk. Murgh-e-Tandoor, barbecue-roasted, multispice-flavored chicken the color of saffron. Methi Machchi Ke Tikne, tandoor-grilled fish marinated in dill, fennel, ginger and honey.

And the hot flat breads, of which India may have the world's largest repertoire. Bharvaan Kulcha, round *naan* filled with cheese, onion,

A FEAST/ p.F4



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KEIKO Gardiner, Vivian Ng, Susan Grau and Ruby Tuason

Poolside party draws celebrity crowd

EVIE Luz-Costa

BOBBY Novenario

THE PALM-FRINGED poolside of the Astoria Plaza Residential Suites—the latest hospitality landmark in Ortigas skyline—was the setting for cocktails that preceded a belated birthday dinner the all-suite hotel hosted for social chronicler Donnie Ramirez.

With Astoria Plaza owner Vivian Ng and general manager Mary Ann Reyes, together with jeweler Robert Castaneda who organized the affair, Ramirez, who rushed back from Cebu where he attended the Tanjutco-Violago wedding, greeted the guests.

Some of the guests, like Helen Ong, Letty Syquia, Fortune Ledesma, Nene Leonor, Mellie Ablaza, Tereret Liboro, Myrna Borromeo, Chit Gohu, Roi Philips, Pitang Lopez-Tiongson and Pacita de Guzman, came straight from a musical cocktail in the Dasmariñas residence of Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti.

Congresswoman Cynthia Villar came from a state dinner in Malacañang Palace for the visiting prime minister of Laos, while Agnes Huibonhoa (special assistant to Vice President Teofisto Guingona) was in a dinner at the Forbes Park home of Saudi Ambassador Saleh Mohammad al-Ghandi before going to Ramirez's party.

Also at the party were Dr. Jimmy Laya, antiques dealer Viring de Asis, presidential adviser (and former GSIS president) Cesar Sarino and wife Tseena, and top society portrait photographer Rupert Jacinto and wife Tina.

Therese Coronel-Santos of Cinderella, who was also celebrating her birthday on the same day, came with Nympha Yatco, Vilma Valera and designer Bobby Novenario.

Couturier Joe Salazar, who is doing the wedding gown of Angela Montenegro, fiancée of presidential son Mikey Arroyo, and colleagues Ben Farrales, Criselda Lontok, and Susan Campos were also spotted.

Jeweler Raffy Florencio, flushed with the successful opening of his Techno-Marine boutique at Makati Shangri-la, huddled with journalist Chay Santiago, publicist Susan Joven, congressional wife Tessie Villarama, Lions Club Governor Baby Bayani-Ortiz, civic worker Lilith Castillo, and sisters Nona Ricafort and Celine Bautista.

Queen of Dancesport, Becky Garcia with Henri Muzzarelli, MTV-Asia's Rod Nepomuceno, Babot Aspiras, Rowena Aquino, Paqui and Lillibeth Campos, Ian and Marissa Benton, Serge and Yolly Ayson, Carminia Pavia, the inseparable trio of Ruby Tuason, Keiko Gardiner and Susan Grau, and Club Panoly's James Lau were also there.

After sipping champagne at the poolside, the guest moved to the adjoining New York function room for the delicious Mediterranean and Continental fare.

TESSIE Villarama, Donnie Ramirez, Viring de Asis, Robert Borja and Dr. Jimmy Laya

TINA and Rupert Jacinto

ROWENA Aquino, Susan Campos, Carminia Pavia, Roi Philips, Mary Grace Katigbak and Kathy Park

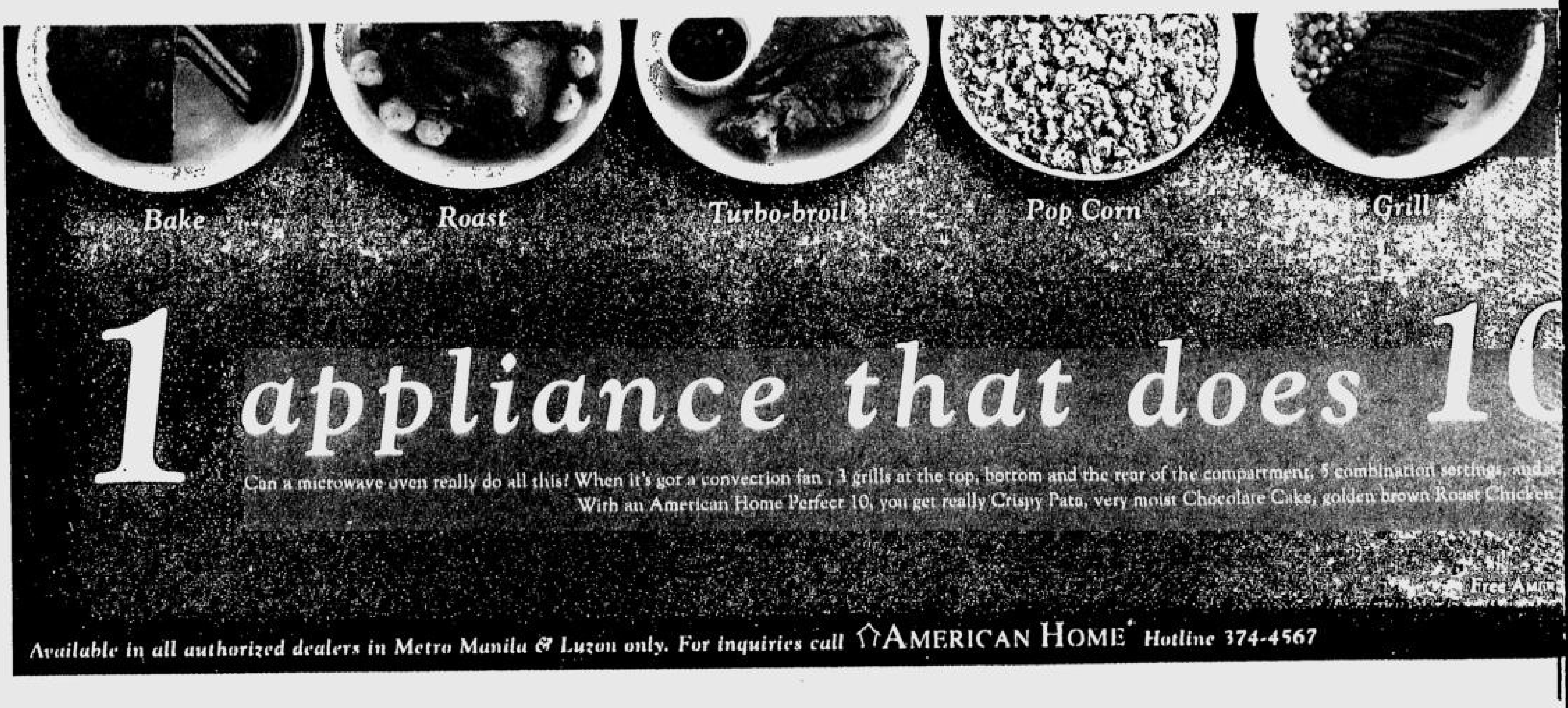
MELLIE and Louie Ablaza

TERERET Tambunting-Liboro, Donnie Ramirez and Criselda Lontok

PITANG Lopez-Tiongson and Pacita de Guzman

ROBERT Castañeda, Fortune Ledesma, Joe Salazar and Ben Farrales

NONA Ricafort and Baby Bayani-Ortiz



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THE San Miguel-Purefoods Culinary Center recently held a summer cooking workshop for children entitled, "Kids Kitchen Camp". Here, teacher Maricel Manalo (right) is assisted by Joseph Galvez, a participant.

TEACHER Carrie Madrid (far left) pose with her Kids Kitchen Camp group as they make Banoffee, a simple dessert using Dari Crème and bananas.

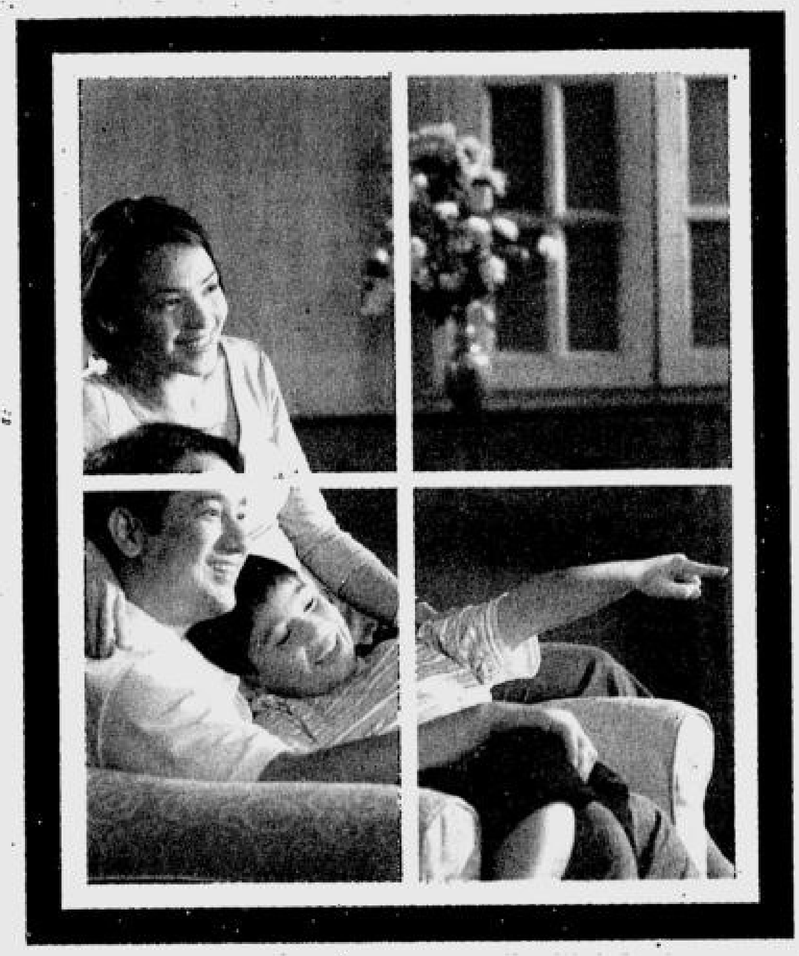
THE CHILDREN gather by groups to prepare their own recipes.

Fun-filled kitchen camp for children

IT was a fun-filled, three-day cooking workshop organized by the San Miguel Great Food Club at the San Miguel-Purefoods Culinary Center. The Kids Kitchen Camp was for boys and girls aged 8 to 12 years old. The children were taught five easy yet nutritious recipes a day, from sandwiches, rice dishes, and pasta, to fruit shakes and desserts. The children enjoyed getting their hands "dirty" and most of them took home the food they prepared to let their moms and dads taste what they prepared.

On the first day, they were taught the basics of cooking and baking. They started off by learning how to use different cooking and baking utensils and how to measure ingredients with the correct tools. It was always emphasized to wash their hands before starting the workshop. They were cautioned to always ask the assistance of an adult especially when chopping and cooking to avoid accidents.

On their last day, they were taught how to prepare their own party food. Each of them took home a gift pack from Monterey, Magnolia Chicken, Purefoods-Hormel, Magnolia Cheezee and Dari Crème. They also won raffle prizes from Glad Wraps and Bags, Tefal, La Germania and Petron Gasul.



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ADHRAK Ke Punje (lamb chops marinated in cardamom and saffron-laced milk)

From page F1

chicken or lamb stuffing; and Bharvaan Jhinga Kulcha filled with prawns, cubed bell peppers, spring onions and cheese seemed like Indian cousins of Italian pizza. Masala Roti is flat, round and flavored with cumin, yellow chili, chopped coriander and mint leaves. Our Mughlai Naan was stuffed with pistachios and raisins, and had as well, a twist of silver leaf—to eat like a mineral, to spark the imagination.

Full of texture

An assembly of main courses to taste, in small copper bowls, suggested the texture of Indian food and life. (So large a country, so varied in geography, so rich in history, textures, and flavors.) A standout is Chef Sandeep's special recipe: Murgh Lubaabdaar Khaas—tomatoes, cream, fresh Indian herbs and morsels of char-grilled chicken *tikke* seared and slowly braised to memorable flavor. Two of us yielded our hearts and palates to the classic Rogan Josh Dahlvi, a lamb curry with red Kashmiri chilis. Dum Ki Daal asserted itself—black lentils simmered for 15 hours, and blended with fresh tomato puree and garlic. Tariwala Murgh is a popular Punjabi chicken curry—sold in the streets, we were told. (Note to myself: I'll never know curries, not having grown up with the spice notes of India and the rest of Asia.)

Is dessert possible after such a feast of flavors? Chef Ahluwahlia decided for us: his East-meets-West Lychee, Mango-Rabarhi Mille Feuille, in which the lychees of China meet the mangoes of India in a layered puff pastry enveloped in a cardamom milk-based *rabarhi*.

Soups there are as well (prawn, tomato, ginger-lemon chicken, spinach cream), vegetarian dishes, rice, and other kebabs impossible to sample in the same meal. A return trip is well-nigh imperative.

A cooking class will be conducted by Chef Ahluwalia on Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m. to 12 n.n. at the Garcia Villa Room of the Peninsula Manila (call 887-2888, local 2168, 2956, 2236, 2238).

Food and beverage expo set at World Trade Center

EUROPEAN food consumption patterns have changed greatly in recent years, which explains why various market segments have developed in varying manners. Some of the food sectors are suffering from a tendency toward consumer restraint that has greatly affected the sectors of alcoholic beverages and meat (with the exception of poultry). The changes in consumer behavior, on the other hand, have had a positive effect on other product groups, such as snacks (sweets, baked goods and pastries) or ready meals. New products, such as ready-made vegetable mixes, are posting double-digit growth. In addition, products considered healthy (water, fruit juices, organic foods) are experiencing an upward trend.

Food and beverage exporters and manufacturers should be well aware of these developments to effectively anticipate and cater to the demands of the markets they wish to penetrate. These trends and other relevant information will be discussed in the 4th International Food and Beverage Exposition/Food & Beverage Engineering Expo 2002 from June 26-29 at the World Trade Center, Pasay City.

Established professionals from various fields of the food and beverage industry will serve as speakers for topics like global food standards on safety and quality, catering to different food markets, bar coding and nutritional labeling on food, and other equally interesting topics.

Each aspect of the food and beverage industry will also be carefully highlighted, with players from the equipment sector to the finished goods section exhibiting various product lines. The 4th International Food and Beverage Exposition aims to promote the local food and beverage industry to cater to the demands of the global market. The exhibition goes beyond marketing products and services; it also endeavors to strengthen the technological capacity of Filipino exporters and manufacturers by providing them tools to successfully cope with the fast-paced market.

Call Time Foundation at 687-2955 or FMI at 759-6680, or visit www. foodand beverageexpo.com.

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YOU founder tagged mastermind in Baron's slay

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Friday, May 17, 2002 ★ 82 pages / 8 sections / vol.17 / no. 158 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Expect hotter days ahead, Pagasa warns

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

EXPECT more hot, sweaty days in the coming weeks.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) yesterday said lack of rainfall was driving temperatures up in Metro Manila and other

EXPECT/A7

WHAT'S INSIDE

Gloria defends pact with MILF
NEWS / A2
Obet gets Palace post
NEWS / A6
4 out of 10 Pinoys feel unsafe at home
NEWS / A21

Erap pals sue Edsa II generals for coup crime

By Volt Contreras

STAUNCH supporters of Joseph Estrada, including two newspaper publishers, yesterday filed a complaint for "the crime of coup d'etat" against top military officials who played key roles in the former President's ouster.

Invoking a 1990 law punishing coup plotters, Ninez Cacho-Olivares, Amado Macasaet, Angelito Banayo, Horacio Paredes and Herman Tiu Laurel lodged the 11-page complaint against Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, outgoing Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, retired Generals Fortunato Abat and Leo Alvez, and "John and Jane Does."

The complainants called their action "a test case, not only on whether our laws are sufficient deterrents for criminals in the military establishment."

They said it would also serve to "determine whether our justice system indeed works . . . or is just merely (sic) a tool for the rich and the powerful to further perpetuate their illegal ways and benefit from the spoils of their lawbreaking."

Olivares and Macasaet are the publishers of The Daily Tribune and Malaya, respectively. Banayo is Estrada's former adviser on political affairs and, like Laurel, now writes a column in the Tribune. Paredes, a press secretary of President Corazon Aquino, is a Malaya columnist.

They drew much of their evidence from a book written by a fellow journalist, Amando Doronila of the INQUIRER.

They quoted excerpts from Doronila's "The Fall of Joseph Estrada," particularly those recounting Reyes' meeting with the top brass on Jan. 19, 2000, about "his decision" for the AFP to withdraw support from Estrada. ***(See excerpts on this page.)***

They also presented as evidence transcripts of the October and December 2001 hearings on Reyes' confirmation as defense secretary before the Commission on Appointments.

But Reyes told Senate reporters: "I did not commit a mutiny, I did not (mount) a coup d'etat." He expressed confidence "that this case will not prosper."

Earlier, he told defense reporters that he had no choice as the situation could have gotten out of hand.

Villanueva said he was "willing to face the consequences" of his action.

"How could I defend the former President, who was no longer acceptable to the people then?" he told reporters in a phone interview. "The

ERAP/A20

'Gentlemen, I'm sure you know that we've just committed mutiny'

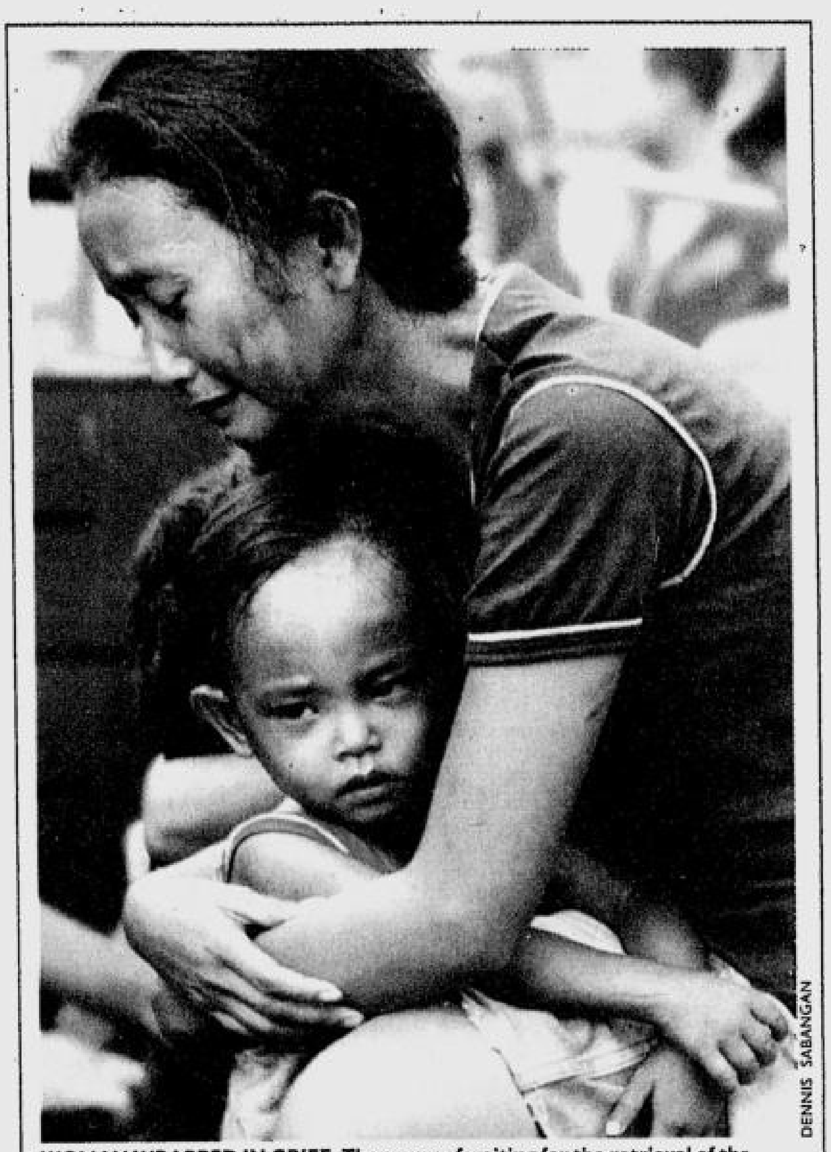
THE FOLLOWING are the passages that the complainants cited in the book, "The Fall of Joseph Estrada," by Amando Doronila:

- Reyes made the decision to withdraw at 10:30 a.m. on Friday (19th January 2001), after a meeting with his staff. He informed the Vice President of the decision . . . at 11:45 a.m. Reyes called the board of generals—composed of the three major services commanders, the vice chief of staff and the deputy chief of staff—to the safe house to inform them of his decision . . . After securing the support of everyone inside the staff room, Reyes said ("In jest," according to him): "Gentlemen, I'm sure you know that we've just committed mutiny." His staff said, "Yes, sir."
- Reyes told the generals of the decision . . . He said, "It would be ideal for the AFP to announce the withdrawal of support

GENTLEMEN/A20

THE FALL OF JOSEPH ESTRADA

"THE EVIDENCE"



WOMAN WRAPPED IN GRIEF: The agony of waiting for the retrieval of the burned body of her son Jeremy and her niece is seared into the faces of Josephine Supenia and son Jericho, a twin of Jeremy. The children were trapped during a fire on Thursday in a squatter area in Barangay Guijo, Cembo Extension, Guadalupe, Makati City.

YOU founder tagged brains in Baron's slay

By TJ Burgonio

THROUGHOUT his 20-year career as a police officer, the alleged mastermind in the killing of government informant Baron Cervantes had been known for his involvements in destabilization plots against the government.

Supt. Rafael Cardeño, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1982, was suspected "as one of the brains" of the series of failed coup attempts in the late 1980s against then President Corazon Aquino.

He, together with other military officers, founded the Young Officers Union (YOU) after the coup attempts led by the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM) failed to topple the Aquino administration, sources said.

The coups mounted by YOU were considered the bloodiest in the country's history.

Police yesterday hinted that Cardeño, YOU chair, had resented Cervantes' disclosure last December of an alleged destabilization plot against the Macapagal administration.

"*Sagabal siya sa mga adhikain ng aming organisasyon* (He has become a liability to the organization)," the alleged gunman quoted Cardeño as saying when the YOU chair gave orders for the killing of Cervantes, self-styled spokesperson of YOU.

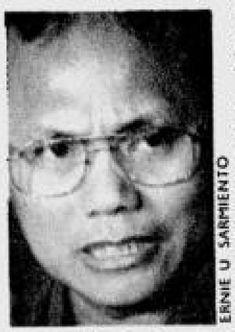
Ex-Marine Sgt. Joseph Mostrales has tagged Cardeño as the brains in the killing of Cervantes "in one of his voluntary disclosures" to investigators.

"He's a liability to the organization that's why he was done in," Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez of the Southern Police District quoted Mostrales as saying.

Cardeño gave the orders for the killing on the same day Cervantes was gunned down in front of a convenience store in Las Piñas City on the night of Dec. 31 last year.

After the killing, he handed Mostrales "a paltry sum" as reward,

YOU/A20



CARDEÑO: At large

"ERAPTION" at the Ombudsman's office to test the anti-coup d'etat law. Complainants are (front row) Estrada's former political adviser Lito Banayo, Malaya publisher Amado Macasaet, Tribune publisher Ninez Cacho-Olivares. Behind are columnists Herman Tiu Laurel and Ducky Paredes.

DENNIS SABANGAN

MARCOS' MILLIONS

'Selective defreezing of Swiss funds'

By Donna S. Cueto

(Sixth of a series)

THE $400 MILLION in Marcos money transferred from Credit Suisse in Switzerland to Limag AG in Liechtenstein a month after the fall of strongman Ferdinand Marcos is just the tip of the iceberg.

A growing body of evidence shows that more Marcos funds were not covered by the freeze order that a Swiss court issued on March 24, 1986.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), the agency tasked with recovering the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies, admitted that there had been a selective defreezing of Marcos deposits in Switzerland.

The PCGG said Marcos funds were transferred even after the Swiss court issued the freeze order.

The PCGG's admission was contained in the consolidated interim agenda of the meeting on June 18 last year between Philippine government representatives and Swiss government officials in Switzerland. The INQUIRER got a copy of the agenda, which the PCGG had been trying to hide from the public.

SELECTIVE/A19

Gloria election bid for 2004 now in full gear

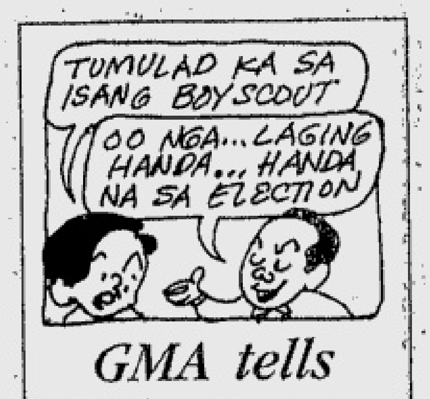
By Juliet Javellana, Cynthia Balana and Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's assumption of the chairmanship of the ruling Lakas party has ended one guessing game, but it has also started another. This time, the question is whether her new party role will help or hinder her chances of reelection.

In a development that reinforces widespread suspicion of the President's 2004 plans, her personal publicist Dante Ang is set to take over as party president of the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino, or Kampi.

Founded in 1997 by Peping Cojuangco, Kampi was the original party of Ms Macapagal, designed to be

GLORIA/A11

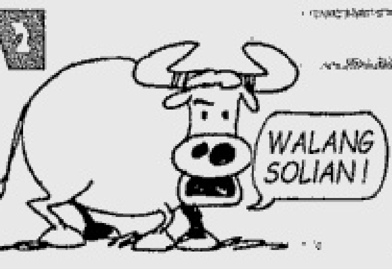

TUMULAD KA SA ISANG BOY SCOUT
OO NGA... LAGING HANDA... HANDA NA SA ELECTION

GMA tells pols: Learn from scouts

By Carlito Pablo

POLITICIANS can learn a thing or two from the Boy Scouts, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday. Not how to tie a knot, or earn a merit badge, or

GMA/A7


WALANG SOLIAN!

Second FRONT PAGE

Gloria defends pact with MILF

By Grace C. Albasin
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Juliet L. Javellana

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo said Wednesday there was nothing in a recent agreement signed by the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front that returned captured rebel camps to the MILF.

"There was nothing in that agreement that said former MILF camps (would) be returned to them. Nothing, nothing, nothing. There was nothing in that agreement that talked about the MILF at all," said an irate Ms Macapagal to reporters at the Pryce Plaza Hotel here.

She said the pact signed in Malaysia, which provided for government-MILF cooperation in the fight against crime and terrorism, would fast-track rehabilitation and development in Mindanao.

"They (evacuees) have all gone back to their homes and, by definition, evacuees are non-combatants, so if you say we help the evacuees go back to their homes, we are not talking about the MILF," Ms Macapagal said.

Some congressmen were not convinced, however. The House defense committee is set to review the six agreements entered into by the government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the MILF.

"Definitely, we will have to review the agreements because if there are provisions that violate the Constitution and are prejudicial to the interests of the Filipino people, we will ask the government to renegotiate them," said Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., defense committee chair.

Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat called on the government to renegotiate the six agreements as these, he said, constitute surrender to the MILF.

"What was won in the battlefield with the blood of our soldiers was lost at the negotiating table by the inept, careless and reckless negotiators," Lobregat said.

A congressman, who sought anonymity, said Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Presidential Assistant Jesus Dureza, chief government negotiator, were kept in the dark about the agreements.

The congressman said it was Presidential Peace Adviser Eduardo Ermita and Presidential Adviser for Special Concerns Norberto Gonzales who signed most of the documents for the government.

The congressman said Reyes was angry over the agreements as these allowed the MILF to return to their camps.

Lobregat said he did not know if Gonzales was a member of the government negotiating panel.

He said, however, that four agreements including the main "agreement on peace between the GRP and the MILF reached in Libya on June 22, 2001" were signed by Dureza for the government and Al Haj Murad Ebrahim for the MILF.

A framework was signed earlier in March 2001 and the implementing guidelines on security was signed on Aug. 7, 2001 by Irene Santiago, acting chair of the technical committee with Dureza noting it.

Lobregat also bewailed a provision that "requires the government to award reparations for properties lost or destroyed by reason of conflict."

He said this was "definitely adding insult to injury," adding the Philippines was not a defeated nation "and definitely did not do anything wrong in capturing the MILF camps."

Pichay said invited to testify at the committee hearing on Wednesday were Reyes, Ermita, Gonzales, Dureza, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable and Mindanao officials.

Ms Macapagal said that in order to fast-track rehabilitation of the war-torn areas of Mindanao, she issued Memorandum No. 61 on May 9 dividing the region into several sectors.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina will head development in Northeastern Mindanao, while Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes would be responsible for Southwestern Mindanao, she said.

Officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao will lead the recovery in their region, while the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA) will take care of the regions outside the ARMM.

She said Presidential Adviser for Muslim Communities Nur Jaafar would take care of the Muslim communities in Christian communities.

Nacorda allegation hearsay—Magsaysay

MALUSO, Basilan—Sen. Ramon Magsaysay yesterday said the reported collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf during the June 2 siege of Lamitan town was based on pure hearsay.

Magsaysay, member of the committee on national defense, said there are many uncertainties about the testimony given by witnesses presented by Lamitan priest Fr. Cirilo Nacorda.

"There are few fuzzy statements, we don't want the military's image to be tainted because of hearsay, or imprecise statements," Magsaysay said during a visit of the committee on foreign relations here.

Magsaysay cited the failure of Fe Sanchez, chief nurse of the Lamitan District Hospital, to identify Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez's aide de camp during a Senate hearing on the collusion issue in Manila.

Sanchez was among the witnesses presented by Nacorda during the committee hearing held in Lamitan on Aug. 30 last year to support his allegation that the military allowed the Abu Sayyaf to escape from Lamitan for a fee.

Magsaysay was among the committee members, who went to Lamitan to hear Nacorda's allegations.

Magsaysay's pronouncement appears to have effectively put the lid on Nacorda's allegations, although the official result of the investigation has yet to be released.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines has been pressing the committee to release its findings.

But Magsaysay said the final result of the investigation could not be released yet, because Sen. Serge Osmeña has requested that two more witnesses would be allowed to testify.

Nacorda said he was sad about Magsaysay's statement, although he prefers to base his future statements on the official result of the inquiry. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Basilan project delayed; DPWH blamed

MALUSO, Basilan—Uncooperative officials in the Department of Public Works and Highways have delayed the completion of the $4 million comprehensive engineering projects in the province, a ranking military officer said.

Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, co-training director for the Balikatan 02-1, said the projects have been delayed for 15 days because some DPWH officials have previously declined to help, particularly in providing of the needed cement aggregates.

Teodosio said the officials have reasoned out that the projects, which are being undertaken by the US Navy Seabees, duplicated their projects.

"I have appealed to the DPWH personnel not to make the job of the US engineers here because the military is not the sole beneficiary of these projects but also the Basileños," he said.

Teodosio said after the appeal, the uncooperative officials finally agreed to help.

Lt. Col. Bryan Hearnsberger, commander of the Seabees, said several meetings between them and the DPWH officials were held last week.

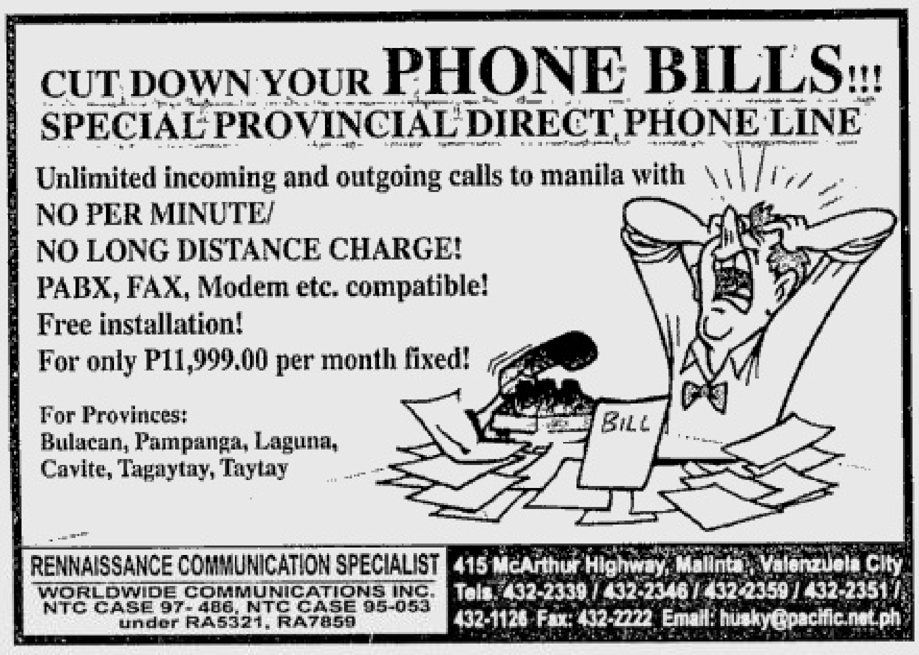
"I think a misconception occurred a few weeks ago," Hearnsberger told reporters here.

Sharif Hasim, provincial public works official, said the problem was unintentional.

He said the delay in the delivery of aggregates only occurred because their manual stone crusher could not keep up with the demand.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, who inspected the progress of work here yesterday, said there is a need to extend the stay of the Seabees.

"We have to extend, let us extend so that they can meet their objectives of 60 kilometers of circumferential highway around the island," Magsaysay said. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***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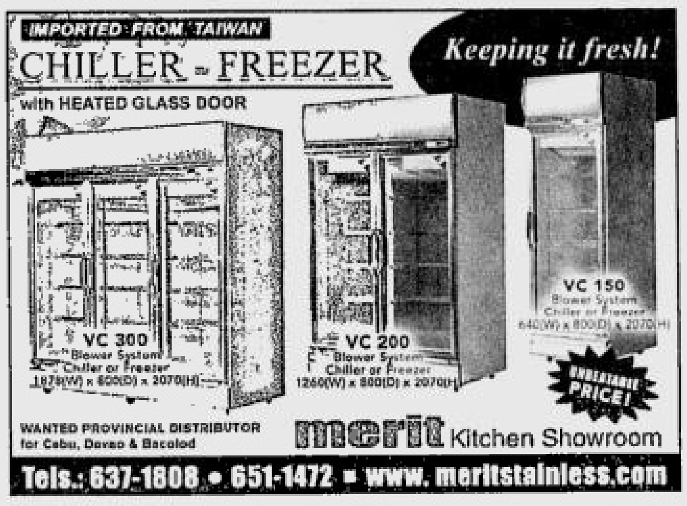
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Davao blast hurts US treasure hunter

DAVAO CITY—Two explosions rocked different areas in Mindanao yesterday, causing injuries to nine persons, including a police officer and a British-American man.

In the first incident in this city, Michael Meiring, 65, of California, was rushed to the Davao Medical Mission Hospital after a stick of dynamite exploded in his room at the Evergreen Hotel on Ramon Magsaysay Avenue here.

The 11 a.m. explosion mangled his legs, with attending physician Dr. Delfin Rabe saying Meiring could lose his left leg.

Meiring, a regular visitor to the country, had been staying at the hotel since December.

Supt. Samuel Yordan, acting city police director, said initial findings showed the explosion was caused by dynamite.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said police had grilled Meiring earlier on Friday, after they became suspicious when he started bringing boxes into the hotel.

Meiring, Duterte said, claimed to be a treasure hunter and showed police several documents, including maps of shipwrecks.

But the mayor said the foreigner was reluctant to allow police to search his room. When he finally agreed, he would not let police into the bathroom, saying it was out of order.

Duterte said the search turned up several boxes marked "Federal Reserve Notes" but the police did not press Meiring about them.

Sylvia Rimando, Meiring's secretary, said her boss was a cancer specialist who wanted to put up a clinic in Davao to help poor cancer patients.

Rimando said Meiring was working with a partner, Stephen Hughes, who was also staying at the Evergreen Hotel.

Hughes' Filipino wife, however, who refused to give her name, denied her husband and Meiring were partners.

Meiring's wife, Angela, told a local radio station from California that she would be arriving soon to look after her husband.

In the other incident, eight persons, including a police officer, were wounded after a homemade bomb exploded in the Midsayap, Cotabato public market at about 3:15 p.m. yesterday.

Senior Insp. Raul Supiter, Midsayap police chief, said vendors became suspicious of a package wrapped to look like a gift and called police.

When a policeman identified only as SPO4 Aquino attempted to lift the package to take it outside, it exploded, wounding him and seven others.

Only three of the other victims had been identified as of press time. They were Jesus Abad, 14; Albert Ty, 59, and Alejandro Capanas.

No one has claimed responsibility for the incident, Supiter said. ***Anthony S. Allada, Ayan C. Mellejor, Dennis Jay C. Santos and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Bicam body OKs tougher anti-drug bill

By Juliet L. Javellana

A BICAMERAL conference committee has approved the final version of what was described as "one of the toughest anti-illegal drugs laws in the region."

The reconciled version of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 prescribes the death penalty for possession of 50 grams or more of illegal drugs and a fine of up to P10 million.

It also imposes capital punishment for:

- Selling of any amount of illegal drugs.
- Planting of evidence by law enforcement agencies.
- Loss of seized drugs by the custodian.

The penalty of life imprisonment is prescribed for possession of 10 to 49 grams of shabu and 10 grams of opium, morphine, heroin, and marijuana.

Deliberate bungling of drug cases carry the penalty of 20 years in prison.

"Last night (Wednesday), we approved one of the toughest anti-drugs laws in the region," said Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, principal author of House Bill 4433.

Zubiri said the final version was approved by the bicameral committee Wednesday night after six meetings in four weeks.

He said the conference committee report would be signed on May 21 and submitted for ratification in both houses by Wednesday next week.

Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, chair of the House committee on illegal drugs which sponsored the bill, expressed confidence President Macapagal-Arroyo, who had certified the bill as urgent, would immediately sign this into law.

Zubiri said the most defining point of the measure is that which considerably lowered the quantity of drugs that would carry life imprisonment or death penalty and fines ranging from P500,000 to P10 million.

Zubiri said that selling of any amount of illegal drugs is "automatic death penalty."

Noted fotog to lecture on 'perfect moment'

PROF. Steve Raymer, a National Geographic Magazine staff photographer for more than two decades, will be making a presentation on "Finding the Perfect Moment."

The presentation will be held at the Department of Tourism auditorium on May 22 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Raymer teaches photojournalism, media ethics, and international newsgathering at Indiana University in Bloomington. He is also on the faculty of the university's Russian and East European Institute.

Raymer earned BS and MA degrees at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and studied Soviet and Russian affairs at Standford University as a John S. Knight Journalism Fellow. He joined the staff of National Geographic in 1972, launching a career that has taken him to more than 85 countries. From famines in Bangladesh and Ethiopia to the collapse of the Soviet Union, Raymer's photographs have illustrated some 30 National Geographic articles.

The lecture is being presented by the Federation of Philippine Photographers under the auspices of the American Embassy and supported by the Department of Tourism.

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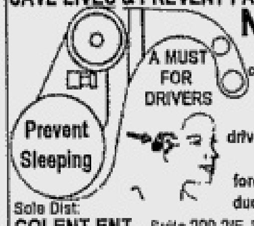

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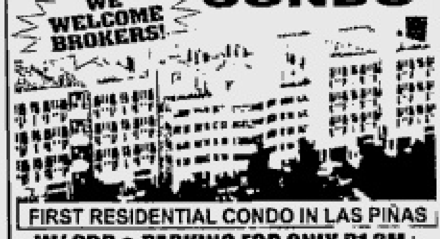

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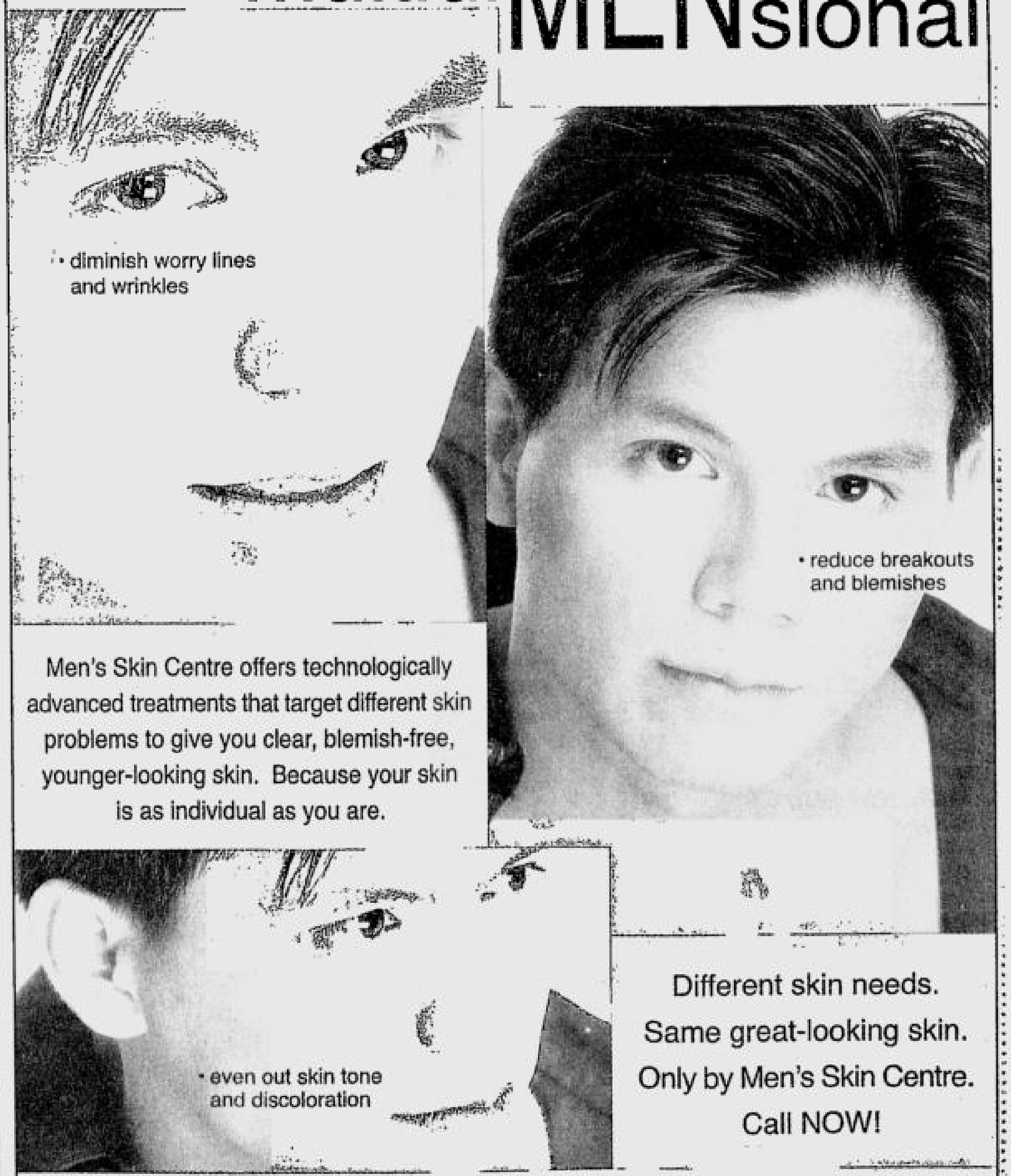

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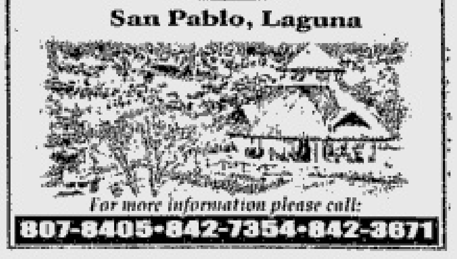

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Consumers to save billions if plants operate fully—Villar

By Rocky Nazareno
and Cynthia D. Balana

CONSUMERS could expect billions of pesos in savings if the independent power producers (IPPs) are operated at full capacity, according to Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar.

In a press conference, Villar noted the huge disparity between the optimum capacity of the IPPs of 12,500 megawatts versus the mere 7,500 megawatts that consumers are using up.

"This means we are all paying for 5,000 megawatts that we do not actually use," Villar said.

Villar proposed the IPPs churn out the entire 12,500 megawatts so that this could be used by consumers, particularly industrial ones, thus bringing down the cost of electricity and the Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA) rates for private end-users.

"We should get back what we have been paying for in the form of rebates," he said, although observers noted the senator might have meant "savings."

IPPs have supply contracts with the government that guarantees their profits regardless of how much power they produce.

Another solution to the PPA issue that is gaining ground among senators is the issuance of zero coupon bonds that would allow for the suspension of the PPA for the next three years.

But on the fourth year and for the next 24 years, PPAs ranging from 40 to 45 centavos per kilowatt-hour would be charged while all exemptions would be eliminated.

"We will have more time to adjust to the PPA and will be more prepared to pay it," Villar said.

Opposition Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta warned yesterday of a new round of power rate increases to support the Department of Finance's plan to dispose of the government's shares in the Manila Electric Co.

Oreta cited as proof of a new rate hike Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho's disclosure Wednesday that the government will postpone the sale of its Meralco shares until after state regulators shall have acted upon the power firm's petition for a rate increase.

A rate hike, Oreta said, would mean higher earnings for Meralco and make its shares more attractive to buyers.

To alleviate the plight of consumers, she said Camacho should instead speed up the review of the contracts between the National Power Corp. and the IPPs.

In a related development, the Office of the Ombudsman has begun an investigation into the government's contracts with the IPPs.

Deputy Overall Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio said in Bacolod City yesterday the probe will also cover Napocor and the National Electrification Administration. ***With Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

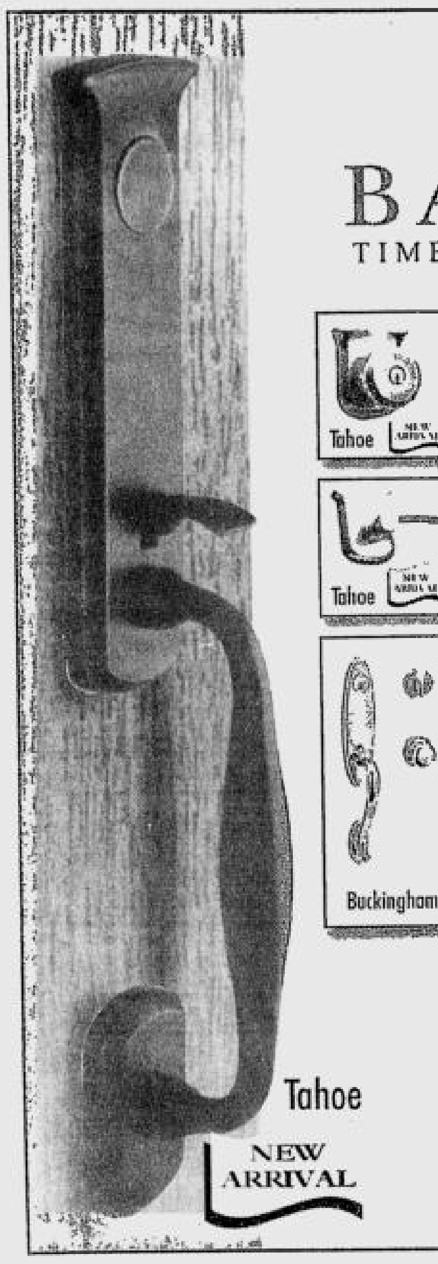
Solons clash over new power bill

TWO congressmen yesterday accused some members of the House energy committee of trying to railroad the approval of a measure that seeks to amend the barely year-old Electric Power Industry Reform Act.

This after the vice chair of the energy committee, Rep. Felix William Fuentebella moved for the termination of the deliberations on House Bill No. 4741 and for a vote on the measure, earning the ire of Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales and opposition Rep. Rolex Suplico.

The House energy committee has so far held five hearings on the questions on the controversial purchased power adjustment charges, and three of these hearings had focused at times on the amendments being pursued on the power reform act.

"To our mind clearly, the majority attempted to railroad this vital bill," Suplico told reporters as he noted that he was actually waiting for his turn to ask questions on the bill. "We feel in the opposition that the cure is worst than the disease," he added.



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Bishops set up Internet 'chat box'

By Armand N. Nocum

BISHOP CRUZ

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines is putting up a chat box in its Network Service Provider—CBCPWorld—to better help victims of priest-sex offenders air their complaints while remaining anonymous.

In a telephone interview with Church reporters, Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, former head of the Internet service provider called CBCPNet, said that their new ISP will afford men and women allegedly victimized by priests the chance to seek counsel and help for the sexual abuses.

"We will put up a chat box for anybody to log in 24 hours a day," Cruz said, adding that the website will be regularly manned by priests and nuns.

CBCPWorld was put up after the CBCP's earlier venture into the Internet failed. The fall of the CBCPNet cost the CBCP P190 million in debt to several creditors.

"We will definitely push through with a chat box. We want the CBCPWorld accessible, especially through a chat box," he said.

The CBCPWorld was established to help Catholic Church advance evangelization through the Worldwide web.

Meanwhile, CBCP President Archbishop Orlando Quevedo said that the protocol they are now working on to address the issue of sexual misconduct in the Church will also establish the responsibilities of the superiors who try to cover up the matter.

"It should determine the sanctions necessary, including the penalties of the laws of the land," he said in a CBCP newsletter.

"It should also define the responsibilities of the Superiors, of communities and the whole people of God. It should also define the areas of cooperation between civil and Church authorities," he added.

High crime rate noted in solons' turf

By Christine Avendaño

THE AREA around the Batasang Pambansa complex in Quezon City has become increasingly unsafe for the public due to the rising number of criminal incidents there.

This was stated yesterday by Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan who disclosed that he will file a resolution asking the Philippine National Police and the Quezon City government to investigate the rising criminality in the area around the House of Representatives.

Ablan told a news conference that there have been several incidents of snatchings and holdups in the area in the past several months.

He recalled that two of his staffmembers were victims in a snatching incident around the area where the Sandiganbayan is located.

There were also incidents were either cars or pedestrians passing by the area were waylaid by people who eventually held them up.

This reporter was actually a victim of an incident in the Sandiganbayan area last week.

Pranksters threw a stone at this reporters car, a 1997 Mitsibushi Lancer, as it was making its way toward the newly built Batasan tunnel.

The stone throwing incident completely shattered the car's windshield.

Police said there had been other stone throwing incidents in the area in the past.

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EFFECTIVE PEST MANAGEMENT May 18, 2002	Saturday	1:00PM–5:00PM
EXPORT BUSINESS AND TRADE PRACTICES May 18 – June 1, 2002	Saturday	1:00PM–5:00PM
CREDIT AND COLLECTION MANAGEMENT May 20 – 31, 2002	M-W-F	6:00PM–8:00PM
SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING May 20 – 31, 2002	M-W-F	6:00PM–8:00PM
BUSINESS LETTERS AND REPORT WRITING May 20 – 31, 2002	M-W-F	6:00PM–8:00PM
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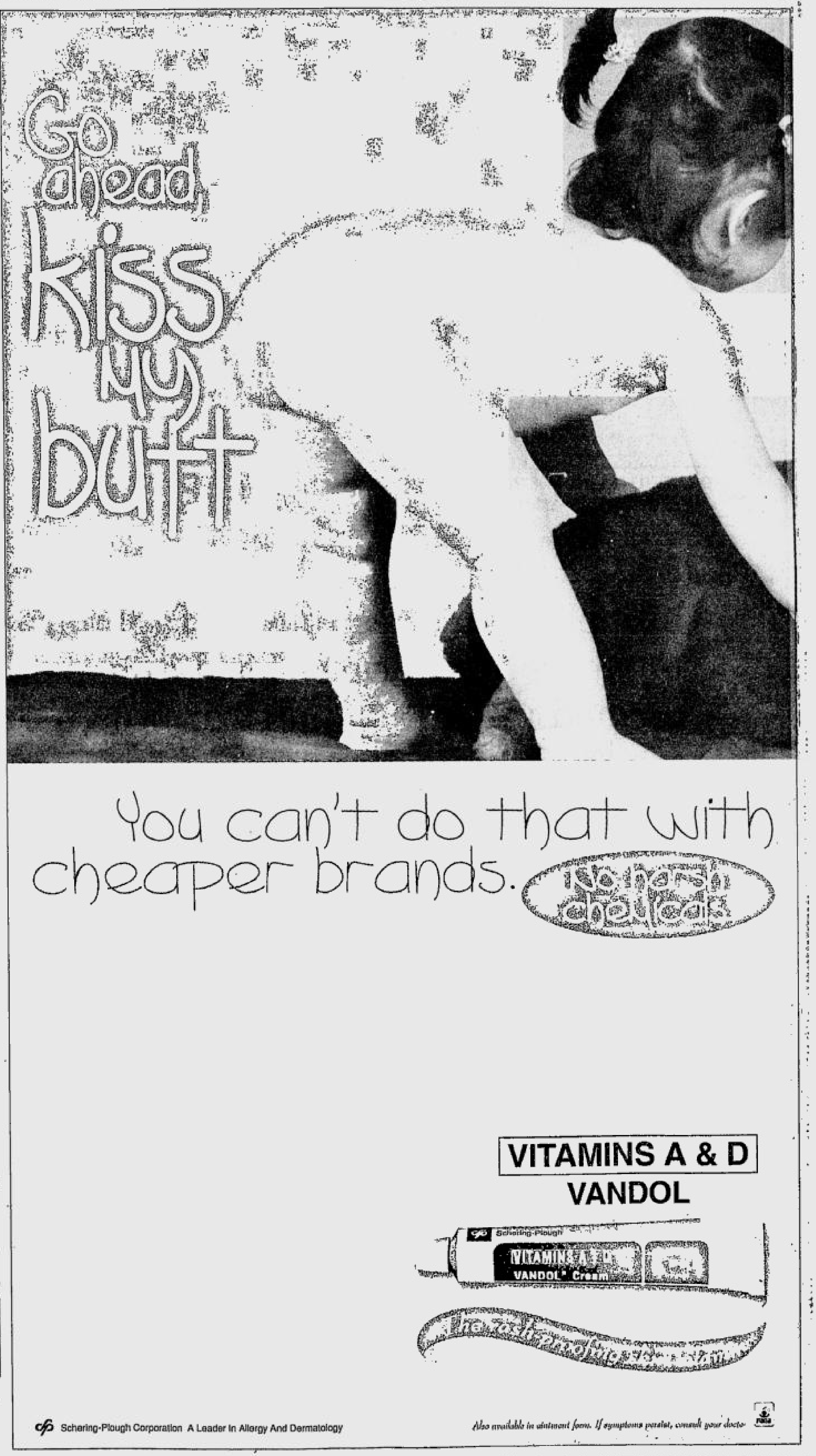
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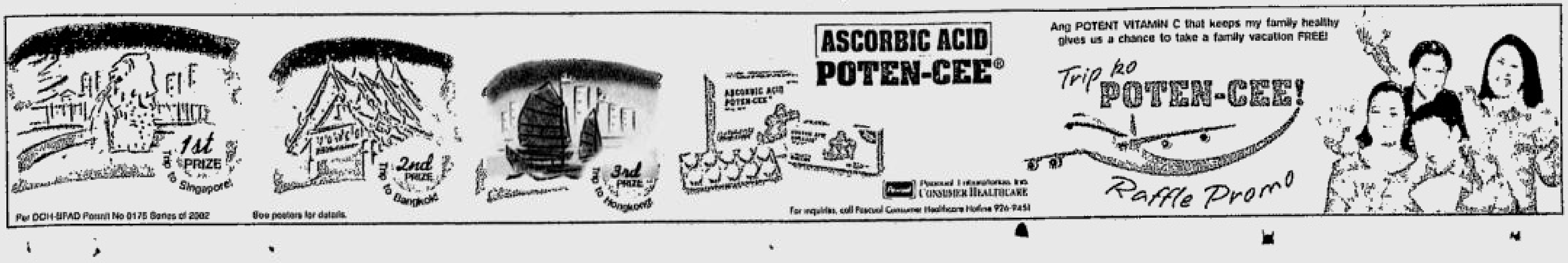
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Obet named Palace adviser

By Carlito Pablo

DEFEATED senatorial candidate Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan has been appointed as presidential adviser on cooperatives development.

Pagdanganan's appointment was announced yesterday by President Macapagal-Arroyo when she addressed the national council meeting of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines.

Pagdanganan, former BSP president and provincial governor of Bulacan, is one of five administration senatorial candidates who lost in the 2001 elections. He also lost in 1998.

One of defeated candidates, former senator Ernesto Herrera, was appointed earlier as presidential adviser on safety nets.

These leaves three other defeated administration bets without any government post so far: former senator Wigberto Tañada, former economic planning chief Solita Monsod, and former internal revenue chief Liwayway Vinzons-Chato.

Food running out at BI jail

By Blanche S. Rivera

MORE than a hundred foreigners languishing in jail for violation of immigration laws could be starving to death soon if the Department of Budget and Management does not give the Bureau of Immigration additional budget for the year.

Immigration officials said the bureau had already spent its P4.5 million budget for supplies and materials, including food for the alien detainees in Bicutan who are awaiting deportation.

The food supply would last only until this month, said BI budget officer Linda Sta. Ana. The BI has already posted a negative in the BI budget sheet as of last month.

"We don't want to be accused of human rights violations by the governments of these jailed foreigners," Sta. Ana said. "We have to feed them, but we don't have money anymore."

Just recently, a Korean wanted in his country for aggravated rape was transferred from Camp Crame detention cell to the BI jail for the rape of a Filipina tutor in December last year, adding to the number of illegal and undesirable aliens in the Bicutan jail.

Byeong Koo-lee was moved to the BI jail after the Crusade Against Violence discovered that the Korean was getting special privileges, including nights out in videoke bars with police escorts while under the custody of the Philippine National Police.

"You may be assured that he will not get any privileges or special treatment here, and that he will be in jail until the case against him is finished," Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said in a press briefing yesterday.

Domingo, however, said that all jailed foreigners would be accorded humane treatment even as the operations of the bureau suffer a great deal because of the huge cut in the BI's annual budget this year, which amounts to P268 million from last year's P373.1 million.

Of the P268 million, only 75 percent or P205.7 million has been released by the DBM to be used by the agency until September. This is the policy for all government agencies this year, Sta. Ana said.

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Expect hotter days ahead, Pagasa warns

From page A1

parts of the country.

On Monday, for instance, the temperature hit 37.5 degrees Celsius in Quezon City, about a degree higher than the temperature in the area a year ago.

According to Pagasa's records, the temperature in Cabanatuan City soared to 40.4 degrees on May 11. The hottest day in the country, however, was recorded on May 11, 1969 when the temperature surged to 42.2 degrees in Tuguegarao, Cagayan.

"In 2002, more than 90 percent of the Philippines experienced below normal rainfall, followed by a drier-than-normal weather condition in the first half of May," Pagasa director Leoncio Amadore said.

"The lack of rainfall may have caused the warmer-than-usual condition in many parts of the country," Amadore added.

He also noted there was a rare occurrence of afternoon thunderstorms that usually provide some relief during the warm months of April and May.

Even so, the sweltering heat wilting many parts of the country is still relatively mild compared to the ferocious heat wave blistering India and Pakistan. Temperatures there have soared to 49 degrees Celsius, killing up to 480 people.

Contingency measures

The Macapagal administration has drawn up contingency measures in anticipation of an El Niño-induced long dry spell later this year.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable yesterday said Malacañang was seriously considering the Department of Agriculture's request for a P1-billion fund to mitigate the effects of the dry spell.

The fund is mainly aimed at expanding the capacity of farms to stock up on water.

Afable said the government was also stepping up cloud-seeding operations to induce rainfall in parched areas of the country.

He said the government was urging the public to support the campaign to conserve water.

The Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) has also urged water districts nationwide to prepare for the onset of El Niño.

In a memorandum circular, the LWUA directed the provincial water utilities to take part in the protection and preservation of watershed areas.

The LWUA also instructed its provincial offices to closely monitor the levels of their water sources, repair leaks in water pipes, and aggressively promote water conservation.

Severe El Niño episodes during the early '90s caused water sources to dry up in Metro Manila, Baguio, Cebu, Iloilo, Cagayan, Ilocos, Central Luzon, Bicol, Western Visayas and northern Mindanao. ***With a report from Carlito Pablo***

GMA tells pols: Learn from scouts

From page A1

help an old lady cross the street, but how to avoid . . . politicking.

Speaking before the 46th annual national council meeting of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Ms Macapagal urged her fellow politicians to emulate the Boy Scouts because they are "not faultfinders, empty critics or complainants."

"That is what I ask from politicians who were scouts," Ms Macapagal said. She noted that many former scouts had grown to become good citizens and outstanding leaders.

"And since many Boy Scout leaders have also become political leaders in various parts of our country, I hope these political leaders . . . would be models to the attitude of staying away from politicking and instead (buckling) first down to work," she said.

"Let us show everyone that we can unite and work for national growth, instead of engaging in political frays," the President also said.

Basic questions

Speaking as the country's Chief Scout by virtue of her being the highest official in the land, the President said both young and former scouts should be guided in their actions by three basic questions.

"Are we doing the right thing? Are we doing enough of the right thing? Are we doing enough of the right thing with the required urgency?" she asked.

The President said that it was important for the country to continue with the scouting tradition in its educational system. "It leads our youth into the good path away from the bad path," she said.

"The practice of self-reliance, the attitude of taking the initiative to achieve goals, and the skills of emergency preparedness have inculcated in countless Filipinos the values of discipline, diligence and perseverance," she added.

"Through the path of scouting, many respectable and responsible Filipinos of today have acquired a sturdy character and firm conviction to selflessly serve God, country and fellow men."

She said the country needed the "dignity and firmness" of the Boy Scouts in the effort "to eradicate poverty and restore dignity."

Noting that the BSP is the largest youth organization in the country, the President urged the group to continue as an association of model youths known for their deeds and not just their words.

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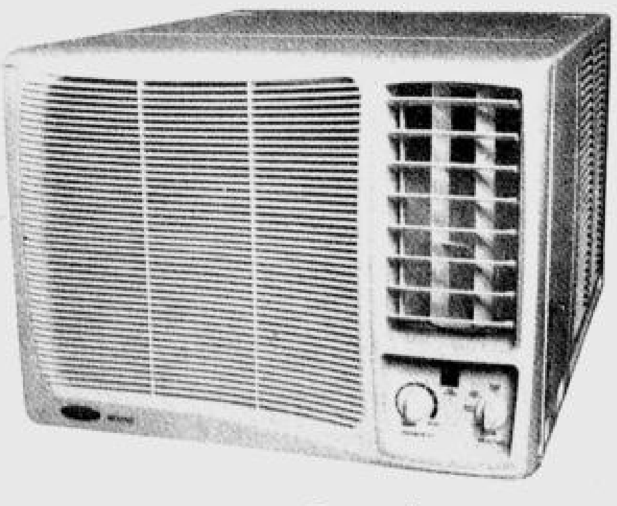

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OPINION

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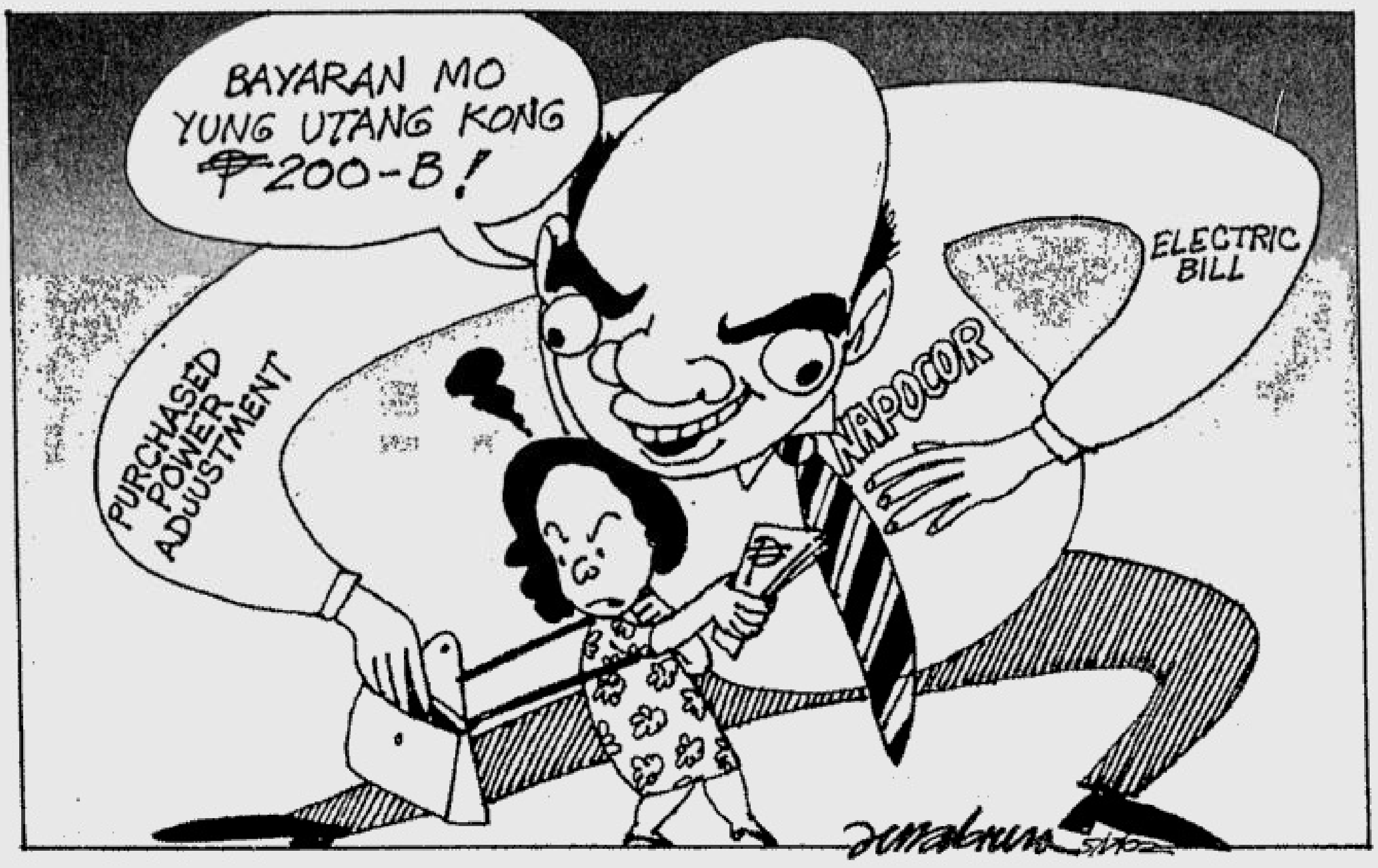
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EDITORIALS

But beautiful

THERE is absolutely no question about the beauty of the Philippines. We are not engaging in hyperbole when we say we have the lion's share of natural wonders, whether mountain, cave, waterfall, or beach, whether aboveground or underwater. Not to be jingoistic about it, even our sky is a contender in the beauty derby, being a veritable artist's palette at sunrise or sunset. And if truth be told, great numbers will swear, there is nothing quite like the sight of the sun dropping below the horizon on Manila Bay.

Which is why President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's latest reinvention of herself as the poster girl of tourism strikes the attentive observer as a bit off. (To be sure, she's perfect for the role, not only because she's a photogenic woman even with her hair wet or even when she's wearing an unglamorous helmet but also because there is just no one higher to make the endorsements. Tourism Secretary Richard "Wow" Gordon should be so thrilled.) It's all very well to trumpet beauty where beauty is, but that's hardly the primary consideration of today's tourists, whether local or international, is it? Despite the acknowledged lift in the slumped global tourism industry, the events of Sept. 11 unfortunately did away with that consideration.

On a whitewater-rafting jaunt the other day in Cagayan de Oro City, the President said she was engaging in such activities because "I want the whole world to see the peace and beauty of several areas in the Philippines." (It was only last month that she went scuba diving in the world-famous Tubbataha Reef in Palawan.) Beauty—well, there is simply no denying that. But peace? Not to belabor the obvious, Martin and Gracia Burnham are ill and languishing in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf almost to the year since they were abducted from a Palawan resort, where they were celebrating a wedding anniversary.

Tourists leave their homes with full intent to enjoy new sights and experiences. It goes without saying that in embarking on a trip, for which they doubtless planned and saved, they expect a minimum of certainty that they will not be robbed, mugged, kidnapped or murdered in their sleep. They expect good roads, drivers who are not under the influence, clean accommodations with working facilities. They expect to be able to get back home in one piece, there to look at their pictures, videotapes and souvenirs with fond smiles, tell their children or grandchildren of the beautiful places they had seen, and—why not?—plan on returning for more pleasant memories.

What if all the memories they bring back involve, not the wondrous Tubbataha or the gorgeous Pagudpud, but bandits, whether the fleecing or the kidnapping kind? Who has not heard, for example, of the barefaced robbery perpetrated by assorted riffraff and even boatmen in Pagsanjan? And the last we looked, the international airport was still the same den of hustlers that has started many a tourist's dream vacation on the wrong foot.

The bottom line is this: Until this administration can guarantee the safety and well being of each tourist, whether local or international, promoting the beauty of this country (or its potential as wedding or honeymoon capital, bargain center, whatever) will be a joke.

But for the money

THE IDEAL is, of course, that Filipinos get to visit, experience and admire the beautiful places in their own country. (What working stiff would not want a joy ride similar to that taken on the Mambuaya River by the First Couple and their son, which, if the President's gleeful expression in photographs is any indication, was such a thrill?) This is ostensibly the principle behind the administration's "holiday economics," which has been implemented in fits and starts, with unclear results.

But most working stiffs, including the government workers targeted by the administration as holiday-seekers, are hardly in a financial position to embark on vacations that soothe both body and soul (as, conceivably, a trip to Tubbataha will). They're likely to be counting pesos and centavos and how much it will take to pay for scuba gear, transport, the whole enchilada.

That is, if they can take their minds off the purchased power adjustment charge, the P200 billion worth of stranded power contracts that they have purportedly absorbed, the high cost of tuition—and the President's plans for 2004.

Resplendent blossoms celebrate glories of summer

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE BEST thing about summer is not the long summer vacation, trips to the beach and mountains and resorts and swimming and boating in some river or lake. It is the fire tree that hangs out its red-orange blossoms and seemingly sets its crown on fire. This midsummer, so many trees are on fire. Driving through Metro Manila or through the countryside, they're everywhere, the red peeking through the tops of other trees like glowing embers of a campfire on a dark night.

In Quezon City alone, you can see them from a long way off in the Ninoy Aquino Park, the nearby Quezon Memorial Park, in the grounds of the Kidney and Lung centers, on the campus of the University of the Philippines. One particularly resplendent one is on the right side of University Avenue, just before reaching the Administration Building. There are three on T.M. Kalaw Street, in Tierra Pura, the reddest and brightest one standing at the corner of P.V. Kalaw Street. From memory, I know that the fire trees in UP Los Baños must be magnificently beautiful right now. And Cielito Lindo, an island off the coast of Cardona, Rizal, must be on fire again from its fire trees.

In our backyard, there is a fire tree growing behind an ilang-ilang tree that sweetens the air with its yellow-green blossoms. Two ilang-ilang trees grow beside the bedrooms and they perfume the rooms with their fragrance. The fire tree shoots branches through the leaves of the ilang-ilang and the red blossoms seem to peek into the window. As I lie in bed, the blossoms seem to be waving at me as if saying: "The ilang-ilang may have the more fragrant blossoms, but mine are more beautiful."

The birds flitting among the branches and the cicadas serenading me even in the hottest part of midday, seem to agree.

The fire tree—also called flame tree and caballero in Spanish and Filipino—is not the only tree celebrating the glories of summer. The golden shower also hangs out its blossoms like golden waterfalls and decorates the ground around it with gold nuggets, in the same way that the fire tree decorates the earth around it with glowing embers. And do you know that there is also a pink shower and a yellow shower, though I've never seen one and I don't know how the yellow shower differs from the golden shower?

Then there are the kalachuchi trees (called frangipani in Hawaii and is its national flower). Their blossoms are particularly numerous at this time and they come in various colors: red, crimson, pink, yellow, yellow-white and white. They not only color the air but also sweeten it. Walking under a kalachuchi tree, like walking under an ilang-ilang tree, is like walking through a scented room.

And then there is the ubiquitous bougainvillea which also puts on fire many a fence and hedge. It also comes in a variety of colors, red, orange, crimson and white and is either single-petaled or multi-petaled. Like the fire tree, the bougainvillea is the trademark of summer. The hotter the day is, the redder its flowers seem to be, peeking over the fence as if showing off to passers by.

Not to be left behind is the yellow bell, scrambling over fences and trellises to silently ring its golden bells as if heralding the onset of midsummer.

The worst part of summer is the stifling heat, sunburn and the prickly heat on your back, the dry stream beds and parched fields with the crops dying of thirst, but the colorful blossoms and flowers more than make up for them. It proves the great wisdom of Mother Nature. It balances the bad with the good. So that when the first rains of the wet season begin to fall, they seem to be so much cooler and refreshing as they banish the heat of summer.

* * *

Book launchings:

1. "A Nation on Fire: The Unmaking of Joseph Ejercito Estrada and the Remaking of Democracy in the Philippines," by former Sen. Francisco S. Tatad.

As the title suggests, it is a senator's close-up view of the impeachment trial of President Estrada and Edsa II and III and how they changed the concept of democracy in the Philippines.

2. "Ayon sa Iyong Kalooban: Talambuhay ni Mahistrado Cecilio L. Pe," a biography of the late justice of the Court of Appeals by Dr. Josefina L. Purisima—on May 20, at the Court of Appeals Centennial Auditorium at 3:30 p.m.

Justice Pe held other distinguished positions, among them secretary and executive director of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, vice president of the International Law Association (Philippine branch), vice president of the Catholic Lawyers Guild of the Philippines, founder and first president of the University of Sto. Tomas Faculty Union, professor of law, bar reviewer and author of books on the Constitution.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Subject of Monday's Kapihan sa Manila will be something that concerns us all: the rising electricity and water rates, and the mysterious and hated purchased power adjustment (PPA). Invited panelists are representatives from the Department of Energy, National Power Corp., Meralco, Maynilad Water, and Manila Water corporations.

Stop the madness

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

HOW many more will it take before we stop it? Last Monday night, in Pagadian City, Edgar Damalerio, 33, was gunned down by two unidentified men on motorcycles as he drove home in his owner jeep after attending a press conference. The slaying happened 300 meters away from police headquarters. A bullet pierced his heart and killed him.

Damalerio was the managing editor of the weekly newspaper, Zamboanga Scribe, and a commentator in a local radio station. He had been getting death threats over the last several days, but had shrugged them off as part of the territory. As editor and radio broadcaster, Damalerio had been fiercely critical of several government officials, among them Erap's Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles, the governor of Zamboanga del Sur, who is Cerilles's wife, the mayor of Pagadian City, and a couple of police officials. He had attacked them on various occasions for graft. He had made enemies among the powerful—that alone would show him to be a journalist who was doing his job.

Everyone has noted the irony that his death happened while community-based newspapers were taking part in a forum in Manila on the media's role in politics and global terrorism. I agree. It is ironic, but so in a sense that is deeper or more vicious than that a journalist fell victim to terrorism while his confreres were talking about how to deal with it.

It is so in that it shows up the peripheral nature of our concerns, or the skewed nature of our priorities. I don't know why we're spending so much time trying to discuss the role of the media in the war against terrorism. Media have only one role in the war against terrorism, and that is to report it. Or better still, to ask questions about it, to examine and reexamine its premises, to try to separate fiction and myth from fact and reality. It is certainly not to take part in it. But which CNN and the BBC themselves seem hard put to do, yielding so easily to the categories of thinking of George Bush and the Pentagon.

I don't know why we should be spending so much time with this while ignoring the more obdurate problems of the media in this country. Chief of them the continuing slaughter of journalists. Damalerio is the 38th journalist to be killed since Edsa, when this country presumably became free. He is the second to be killed in Pagadian City in less than two years. Another broadcaster, Olympio Jalapit Jr., was gunned down in November 2000, also after receiving death threats. That's what's particularly galling about it, the brazenness with which assassins carry out their deed. They even advertise it: "We are going to kill you, so what are you going to do about it?"

The countryside is where the mayhem is happening, which may explain the indifference, or at least lack of zeal, of the national media in running after the criminals. Yes, indifference; yes, lack of zeal. Of course we issue the usual furious denunciations of the killing, and indict the police for their inability to solve it. The air rang with those loud condemnations the other day from the various media groups. But the fact that not one of those cases has been solved must testify to the routine or peremptory nature of those noises. They are not accompanied by a doggedness, a refusal to let go, a determination to run the criminals to the ground, or at least to hound the police like the Furies until they get them.

Criminals normally avoid killing cops because it guarantees retribution from the whole police force. I don't know why we can't do the same thing for journalists in the countryside. Make sure that if one of them is killed, the entire media institution of this country will bear down on the killer. It's the lack of sustained outrage that allows assassins to wreak murder with impunity. They have nothing to fear—a dangerous mindset that guarantees things will get worse before they get better.

I know that many provincial journalists do not have sterling records. I know that many of them are compromised in various ways, some more than others, and in ways that boggle the ethical mind. What can I say? The circumstances in which provincial journalists work are far more arduous than those of Metro Manila. The carrot and stick are definitely so: the blandishments are more attractive in light of unthinkably wretched pay and the threat is death itself. None of the 38 deaths has happened in Metro Manila.

But the fact that corruption rages in the provincial media cannot be an excuse to turn a blind eye on the murder of its members. Corruption rages in the national media too, in even more mind-boggling ways, but no one will be found to agree that the world is better off without its members. Not literally anyway. Certainly, the murder itself, particularly where it is likely to have been authored by the rich and powerful, must suggest that the journalist was not remiss in his duties, however impure he was.

I agree completely with what the Mindanao Institute of Journalism said about Damalerio: "While Edgar may not be the perfect model of a journalist, his courage in exposing corruption and malpractice, among others, is unequalled and worthy of emulation." I can only add that his murder is unconscionable and worthy of being investigated with the same zeal as Ninoy's.

That is what we should be concerned about, holding vigil to this cause and not holding conferences about surreal problems. That is what we should be concerned about, keeping the profession reasonably clean and honest and not—as the National Press Club tried to do last year by proposing to take the place of Namfrel—keeping the elections clean and honest. It's time we rose to something about it.

It's time we stopped the madness.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Readying the Lakas-NUCD

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's takeover of the chairmanship of the ruling Lakas-NUCD party represents an early move to consolidate her control of the party and to build it into a formidable political machine ahead of the 2004 presidential election.

She replaces Speaker Jose de Venecia who had been party chair since he lost to then Vice President Joseph Estrada in the 1998 presidential election. In the party shake-up, the President formalizes her active role as party leader, pushing aside the party president, Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr.

Interviewed in Madrid, where he is attending a conference of leaders of European center-right parties, De Venecia said he proposed the party top-level reorganization to stop speculation that the President would discard Lakas-NUCD and form her own party. De Venecia said that under the new arrangement, the President becomes party chair, he acts as co-chair until the powers and responsibility of the President are defined in relation to De Venecia and Guingona, who is party president.

Lakas-NUCD was organized by Gen. Fidel Ramos as the vehicle for his 1992 presidential bid after he bolted the then administration party, LDP (Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino) which nominated Speaker Ramon Mitra as the party presidential standard bearer.

Although Guingona has been Lakas-NUCD president since 1998, he indicated he would not lose sleep over the more active role of the President in the party, he would not consider it a leadership coup by the President, and could live with the new arrangement that seems to have clipped Guingona's power in the party.

"It's how things work in Philippine parties," Guingona said. The takeover was "logical." He said that the President was consolidating control of the party "so it will not be divided," as it faces the 2004 elections. In reality, "she already has a machine," Guingona said. She is already party vice chair and chair of the executive committee. The committee is the body that decides on party programs and requests of party members for election resources.

In the Philippines, the position of party chair is not as powerful as, for example, the chair of the Chinese Communist Party (citing the case of Chair Mao Zedong). Under the defunct two-party system, the president was the titular head of the ruling party but in reality, he called the shots. It is the president who chose local party leaders, who approved local projects that would benefit party candidates and who released government, as well as party funds to oil the party machine.

What is uncertain is the reaction of former President Ramos to the party shake-up. As founder of Lakas-NUCD, Ramos holds the title of president emeritus. Ramos, however, does not consider the title as honorary. From his own continuing engagement in national politics and in debates over the national agenda, Ramos fancies himself as a kingmaker and his too frequent proffer of unsolicited advice to President Macapagal has irritated her.

By consolidating her control of the party, the President has sent the signal that she is building Lakas-NUCD as her party base and would, as a matter of political convenience, move toward rebuilding the party system as the heart of Philippine electoral politics.

In the 1998 election, when Ms Macapagal, then a senator, ran for vice president to De Venecia, she merged her tiny Kampi party with Lakas-NUCD, which had been built from scratch into a strong party by Ramos. Lakas-NUCD, with 79 congressmen, holds the biggest number of seats in the 220-member House of Representatives. It is a core from which to build a new party system with stable parties with clear policy definition as government or opposition parties.

In rebuilding the party, the President signaled a shift to a more institutionalized approach to politics from the highly personalized approach of Estrada. Estrada had little use for parties in his climb to power. Parties were token structures and he depended on his personal popularity to seek higher office from his base as mayor of San Juan rather than on stable parties. When he ran for president in 1998, Estrada formed a token party, the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), but his presidential campaign was underpinned by the organizational clout of a coalition he formed with the LDP, whose leadership had transferred to Sen. Edgardo Angara.

President Macapagal has never confirmed nor denied her reelection ambitions. Her critics are certain she will seek reelection and see in her acts and decisions that she is pursuing her goal at the expense of running the country well. She has refused to be tied to any commitment not to run again, and in this respect, this gives her political flexibility.

Speaker De Venecia may see the President's taking active leadership of the party as promoting his initiative—taken at the last all-party summit—of rebuilding the parties and laying the foundations of a parliamentary system. But it is not clear whether the President shares De Venecia's vision. What is clear is that a strong party base is an advantage in the 2004 campaign, and as a pragmatic, if not an opportunistic politician, anything that serves her political interests should be seized.

In search of transparency

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT'S another controversy that the Catholic Church in the Philippines needs like the proverbial hole in the head. In the midst of ongoing revelations of clerical improprieties, from charges of child sexual abuse to siring children and refusing responsibility for them, officials of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) had to admit recently that they had been gypped in an Internet venture.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, former president of the CBCP, has admitted that a Chinese-Filipino couple, Eman and Mardie Lim, their partners in CBCPNet, used their "brand name" to rack up debts totaling P190 million, then diverted the money to their personal business.

Set up in 1999 to provide information technology services to dioceses around the country, CBCPNet folded due to the weight of its debts and has been hounded by creditors. Archbishop Cruz has promised the local Church would make good its debts even as it launches another Internet venture called CBCP World. Cruz said he wasn't inclined to file a case against the Lims, preferring instead to chalk up the losses to "experience." While it's laudable of the archbishop to take personal responsibility, along with two other bishops who signed on as incorporators, for the debt burden of CBCPNet, I think the faithful are entitled to a more detailed explanation.

For starters, the bishops should explain from where they plan to source the funds to pay for the failed Internet venture's debts. If Archbishop Cruz, for instance, is eyeing the coffers of his archdiocese, then the faithful of Lingayen-Dagupan should have the right to insist that the disbursement of funds be properly and transparently audited.

And is paying back the creditors of a failed business venture the purpose for which Massgoers drop their coins and bills into the collection baskets during Offertory?

* * *

IF Archbishop Cruz was a CEO of a business that went under, he would have been haled before the board of directors and made to answer in detail why he allowed the debt burden to grow so large so fast.

And I don't think a hard-nosed board would have been content with Cruz's explanation that his only fault was "trusting the Lims too much" and entrusting the business side of CBCPNet to the couple entirely.

Whose money was used to set up the Internet venture? In business-speak, who are the stakeholders in the deal, and who can they sue now that their money has gone down the drain? And if CBCPNet was properly incorporated, shouldn't the Securities and Exchange Commission have stepped in by now to protect the interests of investors and stockholders?

In truth, CBCPNet isn't the first, nor will it be the only, business venture that the Catholic Church in the country has entered into, only to watch it go down in flames. Even the Vatican has not been immune to financial scandal, with investigators even turning up a possible link between the Mafia and the Bank of the Holy See.

The painful truth is that the seminary is about the worst setting for a business education. Reading a balance sheet or working out profit-and-loss statements are not among the skills or gifts that priests are expected to wield. And yet, such is the paranoia or arrogance of clerics that they would rather entrust the Church's money to prelates untutored in the profession than rely on the financial talent of "mere" laypeople.

* * *

WHAT laymen and laywomen, now beholding the difficult straits the institutional Church finds itself in, demand is not vengeance or a lynching. All they ask is that bishops and priests (and nuns) adhere to the same standards of transparency and accountability by which public officials, as well as the private sector, are measured.

I was in high school (in an all-girls' school run by Catholic nuns) when I took part in my first picket. And it was not in front of Malacañang or Congress, but at the gates of the Arzobispado de Manila, the chancery of the Archdiocese of Manila. The early 1970s were a time of ferment that touched every sector and institution, and the Catholic Church was not spared. At that time, Catholic student organizations and more activist lay groups were demanding that then Manila Archbishop Rufino Cardinal Santos open the "books" of the Church for scrutiny by the faithful. It seemed a most reasonable request, but Cardinal Santos responded by turning the request down flat. Hence the picket.

In time, though, the youthful pickets turned their attention to the increasingly repressive Marcos government and let the ailing Cardinal Santos off the hook. The arrival of a much younger and charismatic prelate with the improbable surname of Sin heralded a detante of sorts with the disgruntled faithful.

But to this day, I don't think the Archdiocese of Manila, or any diocese, has ever opened its accounts to the perusal of the public.

* * *

AND we're just talking money here. As I said earlier, it isn't so much the sexual indiscretions and abuse that scandalizes the faithful—we are all too human, after all—but the cover-up, denial and complicity of Church officials.

It's the lack of candor, the unwillingness to submit themselves to the same controls and check-and-balance mechanisms that keep people honest, that is turning so many of the faithful against men of the cloth. If a child has to say three "Hail Marys" for thinking dirty thoughts, shouldn't an archbishop at least be required to issue a financial statement to the public after it has been proven he was a lousy steward of their money?

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Historical shrines

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

OF the 29 shrines run by the National Historical Institute, my favorites are the Emilio Aguinaldo House in Kawit, Cavite; the Apolinario Mabini house along the Pasig River below Nagtahan Bridge; the Galicano Apacible house in Taal, Batangas; and the Jose Rizal Shrine in Dapitan, Zamboanga del Norte. Visiting these shrines is an experience different from a museum. In a museum you enter an air-conditioned space and peer at artifacts enclosed in display cases. In a historical shrine you actually walk through a place where a hero (or heroes) once lived. A shrine connects me with the past, making me partial to the Cebuano word for history, *kaagi*, which literally means the place one has passed.

As a teaching tool, a shrine is more than a slide projected on a screen, or a bunch of old artifacts. It is a whole sensory and historical experience. Although I have been to these shrines more than once, I try to visit my favorites annually because each trip often results in new insights compensating for all the trouble of getting there. Dapitan, being the farthest, is the shrine I have visited only thrice. If it were easier and cheaper to get there, then I won't have to wait another seven years to visit it again. My first trip was in 1988, the second in 1995, and the third in 2002. From Manila you take a 90-minute flight to Dipolog and travel another half-hour by land to Dapitan. Those on a tight budget can go via Cebu, take the fast ferry to Dipolog that passes by Tagbilaran or Dumaguete, then you go by tricycle to Dapitan. It is so inconvenient to get there today you can imagine why Rizal was banished there from 1892 to 1896. For an urbane, cosmopolitan man as Rizal, who felt at home in London, Paris, Madrid and New York, I am sure Dapitan felt like the end of the universe. Dapitan's seaside charm is like paradise, but only for a day or two, not four years. I suffer withdrawal symptoms from Manila's traffic and pollution. I feel disconnected without the Internet. I felt deprived when cable TV was not available in the hotel half-day.

After walking in Rizal's beachfront property and sitting on the so-called "Retiro rock," contemplating the bay, the text I studied—and hated—in school made sense. Rizal's "Mi Retiro (My Retreat)" begins with these lines:

"Beside a spacious beach of fine and delicate sand and at the foot of a mountain greener than a leaf, I planted my humble hut beneath a pleasant orchard, seeking on the still serenity of the woods repose to my intellect and silence to my grief."

Dapitan cannot compare with the white sands of Boracay, but Rizal's house as reconstructed and maintained by the NHI, indeed lies at the foot of a mountain, now a Department of Environment and Natural Resources preserve. There are a number of houses on the property: an octagonal house, a hexagonal house, little huts or *casitas*, and a square house with adjoining kitchen and toilet where Rizal lived. Of this Rizal wrote:

"Its roof is fragile nipa; its floor is brittle bamboo; its beams and posts are rough as rough-hewn wood can be; of no worth, it is certain, my rustic cabin; but on the lap of the eternal mount it slumbers and night and day is lulled by the crooning of the sea."

It is indeed constructed from humble materials but it is a rather large and nice house situated beside an "...overflowing brook, that from the shadowy jungle descends between huge boulders, washes it with its spray, donating a current of water through makeshift bamboo pipes that in the silent night is melody and music and crystalline nectar in the noon heat of the day."

Rizal built a small dam behind this house where spring water from the mountain was collected and distributed to the various houses in the compound by bamboo tubes. In summer the stream was dry, but the dam was still full. The bamboo tubes are no more. Seven years ago I was shown the side of the dam where Rizal and his students signed their names on the wet cement. Even that is almost gone today. Now Rizal describes the sounds:

"The barking of the dog, the twittering of the birds, the hoarse voice of the *kalaw* are all that I can hear, there is no boastful man, no nuisance of a neighbor to impose himself on my mind or disturb my passage; only the forests and the sea do I have near."

Exile made him a bit reclusive and very depressed:

"So pass the days of my life in my obscure retreat; cast out of the world where I once dwelt: such is my rare good fortune; and Providence be praised for my condition: a disregarded pebble that craves nothing but moss to hide from all the treasure that in myself I bear.

"I live with the remembrance of those that I have loved and hear their names still spoken, who haunt my memory; some are already dead, others have long forgotten—but what does it matter? I live remembering the past and no one can ever take the past away from me."

Rizal mentions "sighs and kisses of a person idolized and the sweet secrets of a virginal romance...silences and sighs and blushes of delight..." Introspection does not become Rizal or me, but as I sit on the so-called Retiro rock where these lines were written, I have come closer to understanding a man I have studied for 17 years now.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

The Church: close-open

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

NO, I'm not going to talk of the sex scandal in the Church. What I'm watching is a close-open pattern of the Church as she reacts to events that besiege her.

After the French Revolution which marked the beginning of the end of the Church's worldly hegemony, the Institutional Church "gradually withdrew itself from its dialogue with the world, creating a 'siege mentality' that has crippled its work of preaching the Gospel to the world." The Church stonewalled and created a parallel Catholic society o counter what to her eyes was an increasingly, ungodly, secular society. The withdrawal of the Pope into the Vatican signified more than just a physical withdrawal.

This posture extended up to the '40s and '50s when went to Catholic schools, used Catholic textbooks, read o Catholic books, joined Catholic organizations and moved Catholic circles. Everything else was non-Catholic. The U versity of the Philippines was "godless." Rizal's books we in the Index.

Then, Pope John XXIII and Vatican II came on the scene. The Council's key word was "*aggiornamento*" meaning "to be open to contemporary situations" or "to make modern." The popular meaning was a forthright "open up"—dramatic indeed after the cocoon in which we had lived. Pope John knew that beneath our safe, smug world seethed "social, political and spiritual unrest."

From Oct. 11, 1962 to Dec. 8, 1965, Vatican II sought to change and revitalize the Church from within, not to combat heresy and declare dogmas, but to grapple with vital matters hitherto neglected, such as religious freedom, the laity as peers and participants in Church matters, ecumenism, the supremacy of conscience, reconciliation of religion and science, engagement in the socio-political world, the Church as people of God rather than a hierarchical institution, etc. Vatican II aimed at bringing the Church back into the world. The participants were to "speak freely' and the Church was going to "listen."

So disturbing perhaps were the proposed reforms t the Catholic establishment, that after 35 years, one get the feeling that except for the vernacular in the liturg and the relaxed dress code for the religious which ar really skin deep; substantive portions of the books o Vatican II are being closed. One gets the feeling that th Church has been stonewalling again, back to black an white and no colors in between, back to "them and us. Tell me it isn't true.

And now comes this bombshell that has exploded righ in our faces. Where Pope John XXIII opened the Church o his prophetic initiative, outside forces are now prying th Church open. Media won't let go, nor I suspect, will thos affected by this scandal. Will this crisis make the Churc open up or close?

Those who would want the Church to "close" and clos ranks have their reasons. The prestige of an august institution must be preserved at all cost. Nothing is to be gaine by exposing dirty linen. An institution may not be criticize least of all, the Church. Then there is that view of priests a endowed with a special, sainted mystique that quie concupiscence. Ask the priests. They would know how it really is.

The Church also has a history of cover-ups, "a subcultu of secrecy"; a disposition to suppress, subtly; or to silenc directly. "Excommunication," which we thought had passe out with the Inquisition, still crops up to this day! The risl too, of opening up are real. Any institution that does so w win some and loose some. The loss of priests and nuns aft Vatican II must have panicked sectors of the Church wh stepped on the brakes.

Those who would want the Church to "open" have the reasons. It's about time. It's inevitable. People want a tru listening Church rather than a constantly promulgati Church. How far, for example, will more "protocol" and "professional code of ethics" go, unless the root is co fronted? Fr. Jerry Orbos writes, let the priests "speak as pe sons and not as representatives of an institution or as bea ers of rules and traditions," without hesitation and not on on celibacy.

The same freedom could be invoked for "people who a honestly critical." Suppression is hardly the way to keep th faithful. Chaos will not descend if they speak. The Churc will be the more robust for them.

Let a thousand flowers bloom. Let Fr. Robert Reyes g on saying what he thinks. Let Fr. Ruben Villote speak h heart out. Let Rina Jimenez-David pursue her advocacy. L Conrado de Quiros and Dean Jorge Bocobo speak out. L my friend Tess not hold her punches. Let Ceres Doy Michael Tan and me twit the Institutional Church every no and then. Closet liberals, new agers, speak out. Let us all l free from fear as the Church says we are. No one intends leave the Church, for heaven's sake! So it's open hous Characters will walk in and out. Dust and dirt will fly in, b so will fresh air, so will sunlight.

Asuncion David Maramba is a retired professor, book editor a occasional journalist.

* * *

Comments to marda@info.com.ph; fax 8210659

THEY SAID

Unremovable brand

"If you are a police officer, you're always a public officer. You cannot say that you attended that meeting in your private capacity."

—Sen. Panfilo Lacson on the presence of Chief Supt. Florencio Fiansa in the Freedom Force meeting

Different leaders, same program

"We oust and install a new leadership but maintain exactly the same economic programs. As a result, we've got massive escalation of those leaving the country to find better opportunities abroad."

—Foreign Undersecretary Sixto Roxas

Virtual prison

"I have to ask the Bush administration, the international community: Is this acceptable that I cannot go out the door?"

—Palestinian President Yasser Arafat

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Some takeovers of electric co-ops are necessary, beneficial

LETTERS

THIS is in reaction to the column of Neal H. Cruz, titled "Why the forced takeovers of electric co-ops?" (PDI, 5/13/02)

Twelve years ago, the Benguet Electric Cooperative Inc. (Beneco) was taken over by the National Electrification Administration (NEA). At that time, Beneco was in deep financial trouble, having arrears of P25 million from the National Power Corp. (Napocor) and P29 million in delayed amortization for its NEA loans.

There was also public dissatisfaction, with consumers staging regular protest rallies against exorbitant power rates, unreliable electric power service, alleged mismanagement and very slow implementation of rural electrification.

When the NEA prepared to take over, the then board of directors and general manager questioned the takeover in the courts and refused to cooperate until the Supreme Court finally upheld the legality of such an NEA takeover, including the dismissal of the entire Beneco board of directors and the general manager.

The NEA takeover proved beneficial to Beneco. With the NEA-appointed general manager and project supervisor, the crippling arrearages to the Napocor and NEA were eventually eliminated, giving the beleaguered cooperative room to maneuver a dramatic turnaround.

Now Beneco is relatively stable, offering one of the lowest electric rates among electric cooperatives (cheaper than Meralco's) and enjoying the support and confidence of its consumers and employees in Baguio City and Benguet province.

This healthy financial state makes us, as Cruz alleges, one of the few electric cooperatives being targeted (God forbid) for takeover by Father Silva's long-time "patrons," the Aboitizes. Nevertheless, a possible takeover is something we treat as a challenge to further our overall operational efficiency which we hope, would lead to better consumer satisfaction.

Be that as it may, perhaps Cruz is correct in his claim that the power distribution sector and some electric cooperatives are in dire need of reforms to cut down the horrific systems losses, management and operational inefficiencies and grave financial difficulties. Indeed, there are electric cooperatives which are financially depressed, and this is attributed to the fact that the bulk of their load consists mainly of residential consumers located in the rural areas which are not as profitable as the densely populated area coverage of the privately owned distribution utilities.

But, in our humble opinion and experience, an NEA takeover, however painful or unpalatable, can be one effective way in reviving an ailing electric cooperative as what happened to Beneco. As in Beneco then, the NEA takeover of some electric cooperatives was mainly due to the distressed financial and technical situation in these electric cooperatives.

—GERARDO P. VERZOSA, general manager, Benguet Electric Cooperative Inc., Alapang, La Trinidad, Benguet

No stalemate, no 'ego'

I WRITE with reference to Vic Agustin's column "Cocktales" of May 10, 2002, and the item titled "Itogon-Suyoc stalemate." Agustin's column contains a number of errors which require correction.

1. There is no such thing as a "stalemate," because the decision of the Securities and Exchange Commission is now final and executory and the Philippine Stock Exchange, in its meeting on April 24, resolved to abide by the SEC ruling. Itogon-Suyoc has therefore now implemented the private placement.

2. I cannot understand Agustin's arithmetic in his quantification of P10.4 million as the amount under contention. Nonetheless, P10.4 million is a substantial amount by any standard, and it is not at all an issue of "ego."

3. Agustin is also in error when he said that "8.68 percent of Itogon-Suyoc shareholders were left out in the cold." The fact of the matter is that the 8.68 percent consists of shareholders who were absent during the special stockholders' meeting in which the PhilWeb contract was approved unanimously, with 91.32 percent of the shareholders in attendance. It is obvious that no corporation ever gets 100-percent attendance during shareholders' meetings and the fact that 8.68 percent were absent does not mean that they opposed the agreement nor have they suffered any prejudice. They will get the same benefits as those who attended the meeting.

4. Agustin claims that I "adamantly refused" to extend to the minority block the par value takeover price. It is not up to me to refuse or agree, but these are the regulations in the Corporation Code. Apparently, what Agustin wants to see happen is for those who have absented themselves from the stockholders meeting (8.68 percent) be given a better deal than those who attended the meeting, which is of course preposterous.

—ROBERTO V. ONGPIN, chair, PhilWeb.Com Inc., The Enterprise Center, 17th Floor, Tower 1, 6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Baguio pines were there before Americans came

RE my recent commentary "Burned y the park" (PDI, 5/3/02), Alex Reyes of Makati City e-mailed me hat Baguio and other areas of the Cordillera of similar vegetation were already planted to pine trees ven before the Americans came.

A quick check with history ooks bears this out. In fact, even the Spaniards already found the pine trees when they came to the mountainous region. It was the Americans, however, who declared Baguio City the summer capital of the Philippines in June 1903.

—NATALIA M.L.M. MORALES, University of the Philippines, Diliman, QC

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Coast Guard sends its 'mea culpa'

THIS is in line with the editorial titled "Lost at sea" and the news item written by Joey A. Gabieta titled "Biliran solon fears cover-up by Coast Guard" last May 15, 2002.

It is very unfortunate that the sinking of MT Nilode-A has again placed the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in a bad light. In this particular incident, it is indisputable that our men in Biliran did not perform their duty by allowing the MT Nilode to leave the port. But let us not set aside the fact that the owner and master of the vessel have the primary responsibility in ensuring the passengers' safety. The PCG command has continuously trained and reminded our men to enforce strictly maritime safety rules and perform their duties according to their best judgment based on existing policies and regulations. To give in to outside pressure is not an excuse. For this, we are taking full responsibility for their actions and therefore vow that this neglect of duty will not go by unpunished.

In fairness to Rep. Gerardo Espina Sr. and Gov. Rogelio Espina, or to any local official, we are not putting the blame on anyone nor have any intention to conceal the culpability of our men.

Rest assured that this incident will serve as a lesson and grim reminder that in the performance of our sworn duty to serve the people, we cannot compromise nor negotiate in ensuring maritime safety.

—REUBEN LISTA, VADM, commandant, Philippine Coast Guard, Port Area Manila

Did gov't overreact to the possibility of unrest on May 1?

(INQ7 Voices is a weekly round-up of comments selected from those posted by thousands of Filipinos, here and overseas, on the Discussion message boards of INQ7.net, the online news website of the INQUIRER and GMA-7. To participate, register at http://discussions.inq7.net/)

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DEFINITELY not. The government (GMA) just tried to do her best to keep everybody safe from people who have unreasonable minds and who are provocateurs of chaos—people who think they are fighting for just causes but who are really irresponsible, insufficiently informed and misled, who want to satisfy their eagerness to acquire power.—**sonycher**

* * *

Although this is in hindsight and we may never actually know the extent of the mayhem planned by the Erap rally organizers, it was better that way because no violence or loss of life occurred.

Only the incorrigible anti-government critic would prefer injury and violence instead of deterrence and order.—**Rolly S.**

* * *

The government did not overreact by deploying police forces on May 1st. The move prevented trouble like that of last year when Erap and his party (Panfilo Lacson, Gringo Honasan, Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor, Ernesto Maceda, Edgardo Angara, JV Ejercito, etc.) set up and used the *masa* to try and overthrow the government of Gloria.—**KapwaPinoy**

* * *

We have to face reality: all Gloria wants is peace. I know it is hard for you to accept her conciliatory moves, but she's now our President. She's doing everything in her power to build a better country, though some of her decisions are bull. If we want reforms, don't use the streets. We can lobby. There are formal ways to have our demands reach her. We have to help her. I agree with her that she is our mother. Yes, she is. We have to help our mother to make things better.—**geremy a**

* * *

Definitely, the government did not overreact. It was simply preparing for the worst that could be whipped up by the rabble-rousers and the adventurous from the Left, hardcore Erap defenders, or the "evil" society. Of course, it is quite foolish to think that any violent social upheaval deteriorating into an ochlocracy (government by the mob) would rightly occur exactly a year after the botched Malacañang siege.

The rally organizers (read: opposition) know fully well that the government was waiting and was more than ready to spring its trap on them the moment chaos or a semblance of it came to pass. However, it is unfortunate that the administration has since been acting like a poltroon with its own bogeyman at hand.

Therefore, we should all expect that for the next couple of years, the May 1 celebrations will be met by the government with enough "truncheoned" forces to prevent some misguided souls from launching some equally misguided reprise. This is what we get from a government whose foremost priorities are to ensure its survival and insist on its legitimacy.—**rady1976**

* * *

It is better to be over-careful than to take the risk that chaos and violence will happen that day and not be ready for it. It is right that the authorities should be prepared for potential riots in order to be in control.

I believe that in all countries where the First of May is observed, the authorities have made some kind of security arrangements (even small) for potential problems.—**Monica West**

* * *

That was one achievement that the national police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines can be proud of. It clearly shows their commitment, resolve and capability to be in control of a situation. I consider it not a "show of force" but rather a "flexing of muscles."

The term "OA (over react)" is incorrect as there was a valid threat to peace and order following last year's May 1 attempt to capture Malacañang.—**Darwil**

* * *

Not only did she overreact, she also showed her fear that the possibility of her ouster is fast becoming a reality. That is, despite her self-grandstanding that she is not afraid of the pro-Estrada group!

She usurped power through an illegal power grab. She has become a victim of her own doing. How can she sleep at night thinking that somebody, maybe from her military, will turn around and betray her, not unlike the way Angelo Reyes betrayed his commander in chief?—**svengali**

Free six Mamburao farmers

WE in the Promotion of Church People's Response appeal for the just resolution of the case of the "Mamburao Six"—Lito Mauricio, Ruben Balaguer, Gelito Bautista, Eduardo Hermoso, Mario Tobias and Joshua Ungsod—who were unjustly arrested and have been languishing in jail for four years now.

The Mamburao Six are poor farmers belonging to the Golden Country Farmers Organization in Mamburao, Mindoro Occidental. First, they were falsely accused of "stealing mangoes" in the Golden Country Farm where the powerful landlord, former Rep. Ricardo Quintos, stood in the way of their rightful claim to the 604-hectare land that was long overdue for distribution under the government's land reform program. In 1998, when the two sons of Quintos were gunned down, police and intelligence agents arbitrarily arrested the aforementioned farmers and they were brought to Manila jails under the orders of the powerful landlord.

The New People's Army claimed responsibility for the killings, but Quintos continued to use his power to keep the Mamburao Six in jail. Apart from being a blind retaliation to the death of his sons, it is clear that Quintos wants the poor farmers in jail to keep them powerless in claiming their share of land in the Golden Country Farm. Clearly, the case of the Mamburao Six is a clear criminalization of agrarian cases.

We fear that they will be condemned to death because of the manipulations and overwhelming influence of one wealthy man in the police and judicial systems. We join their families in demanding their immediate and unconditional freedom. As Christians, we believe in the God of justice who warns against those who trample upon the rights of poor little ones.

In the name of truth and justice, we strongly urge the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 81 under Judge Maria Teresa Yadao, to uphold and implement the Aug. 28, 2001 memorandum of recommendation of release on recognizance signed by Justice Secretary Hernani Perez, Interior Secretary Joey Lina, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself.

As Church people, we call on the honorable court to uphold truth and justice in the case of the Mamburao Six. We urgently appeal to Secretary Perez and President Macapagal to intervene in the case and renew their recommendation for the immediate and unconditional release of the poor, innocent farmers.

—FR. ALLAN ARCEBUCHE, OFM, spokesperson, Promotion of Church People's Response, 3rd Floor, NCCP Bldg., 879 Edsa, Quezon City

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Gloria election bid for 2004 now in full gear

From page A1

the vehicle for her presidential bid in the 1998 elections.

When she ran as De Venecia's Lakas running mate instead, there was a falling out between Macapagal and Cojuangco, now a prominent member of the Council on Philippine Affairs.

Ang's new party role signals a reconciliation between the two, a Malacañang source said, adding that Kampi will actively support Macapagal's 2004 campaign.

"A rapprochement has been reached and it's now going to be a combined journey for 2004," the source said.

Former Rizal Congressman Emigdio "Ding" Tanjuatco, secretary general of Kampi, confirmed the news in a phone interview.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr. said the President's decision to take over from Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. would strengthen the party. "It would show once and for all that she is really Lakas," Lozada said.

Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles said the President's takeover was "long overdue." "All of us defer to her wishes since she became President anyway. She will lead the party to victory," Nograles said.

Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri said it was a "welcome change."

"The President is young and dynamic and this is good for the party," Zubiri said.

But opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said the President's new role might even cause her downfall in the 2004 elections.

"I think it may even drag her down because within Lakas itself, there are many outstanding leaders who are not quite happy with the President," Angara, president of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, told Senate reporters.

"She is going to have this big, big challenge of simply uniting the different factions within Lakas," Angara said.

Angara, the de facto opposition leader in the Senate, also took a potshot at the President's high-profile marketing of the country's tourism destinations. "I don't know if she would like to spend her time mending fences within Lakas or she would like to spend more time whitewater rafting, mountain climbing, scuba diving."

The answer

Batanes Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad, president of the Liberal Party, said the President's move addressed the concerns of many who had asked him whether the President was bolting Lakas to join the LP.

"This development is your answer to that because for us, it would be unrealistic for the President to join a party like ours because she has to have a broad coalition," Abad said, adding that politics was admittedly a numbers game. The LP is a member of the so-called "sunshine coalition" in Congress, together with Lakas and the Nationalist People's Coalition.

But Abad also expressed reservations about the President's new post. It could lead to "massive party-raiding" and the establishment of a "hegemonic Lakas."

"Our fear is that this is a signal for Lakas to be hegemonic. That we should all join Lakas because the President is with Lakas and that it is The Party," Abad told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Abad said this was what happened when the LDP was the administration party (in the late 1980s and early 1990s), with then-Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, the brother of President Corazon Aquino, as secretary general. He recalled that congressmen were asked to join the ruling party then or lose their committee chairmanships.

"I think the President should take this into consideration because we are still committed to supporting her," Abad said. "But the problem is Lakas officials below her, who might use her to conduct aggressive party raiding," Abad said.

Abad said it would have been better for the President's rumored plan to seek a full term in 2004 if she did not join a particular party, but added that he trusts the President would still "leave room and space for us to work with her."

Kampi reorganization

"It is part of the party's desire to support President Macapagal in so far as her programs are concerned in this stretch," Tanjuatco said. "Since we believe that she is the only leader capable of pursuing these programs of nation-building and the betterment of society, we are also supporting her for 2004."

Tanjuatco said Ang's entry into Kampi "was a result of several consultations and is just a first step toward our common objective of doing our bit for nation-building."

The source said that Cojuangco's wife, former Tarlac Gov. Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco, would let go of her current party position as acting president and assume the post of Kampi chair.

Tanjuatco said party leaders would again meet Ang this Saturday at Cojuangco's residence in Dasmariñas Village, Makati, to finalize the terms of the party's reorganization.

"We are revitalizing the party and these changes are part of this effort," Tanjuatco said.

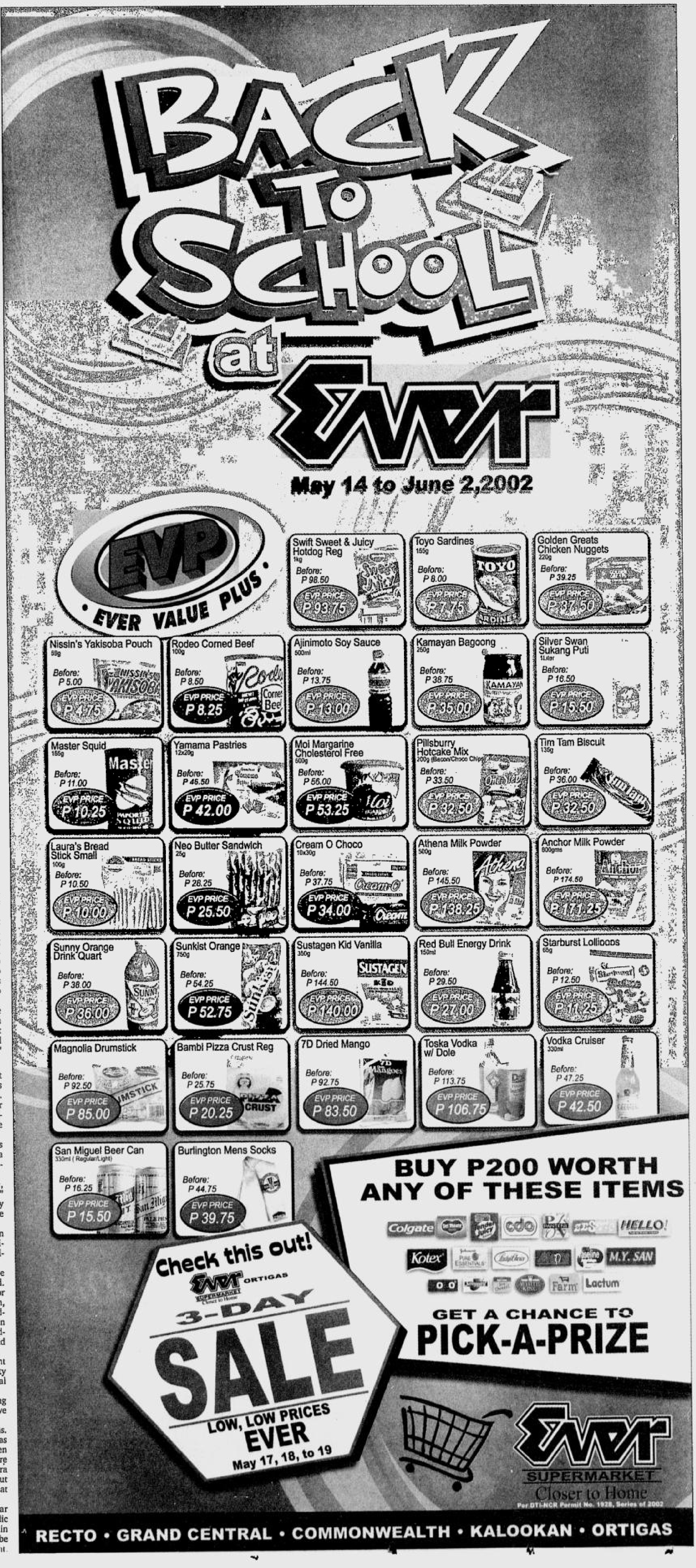
Among those invited to the meeting is Pastor "Boy" Saycon, a high-profile member of Copa, which has been vocal against the Macapagal administration. Copa leaders were earlier tagged in an alleged plan to overthrow the Macapagal administration through the formation of the so-called Freedom Force, a report they strongly denied.

Angara said it was natural for the President to accept De Venecia's offer to assume the party leadership because she had no strong political party to back her in 2004.

"Joe (de Venecia) must have gotten something big in exchange because Joe will not easily give up the leadership of the Lakas," Angara said.

"I mean, Joe works so hard to build up Lakas. He was the standard bearer in 1998 and he has managed to keep it together this far. So when you are asked to sacrifice and give it up, I'm sure it's not because of a lollipop," Angara said. Angara was the LDP nominee for president in 1998 but decided to sacrifice his candidacy in favor of that of Joseph Estrada, a coalition partner.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said it was very clear from the President's body language and public pronouncements that she was going to run in 2004. People should therefore expect her to be more political in her term as interim president.



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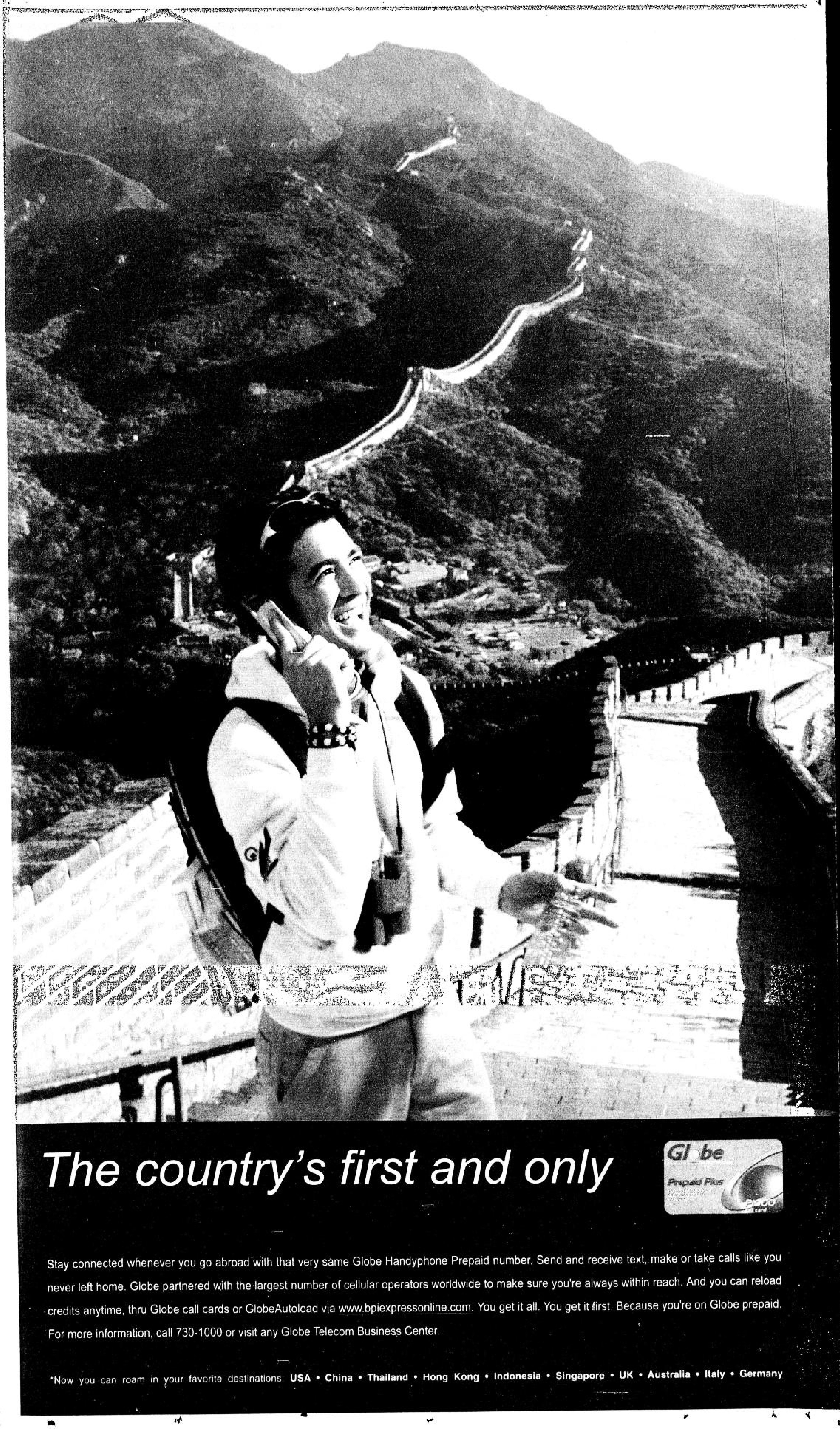

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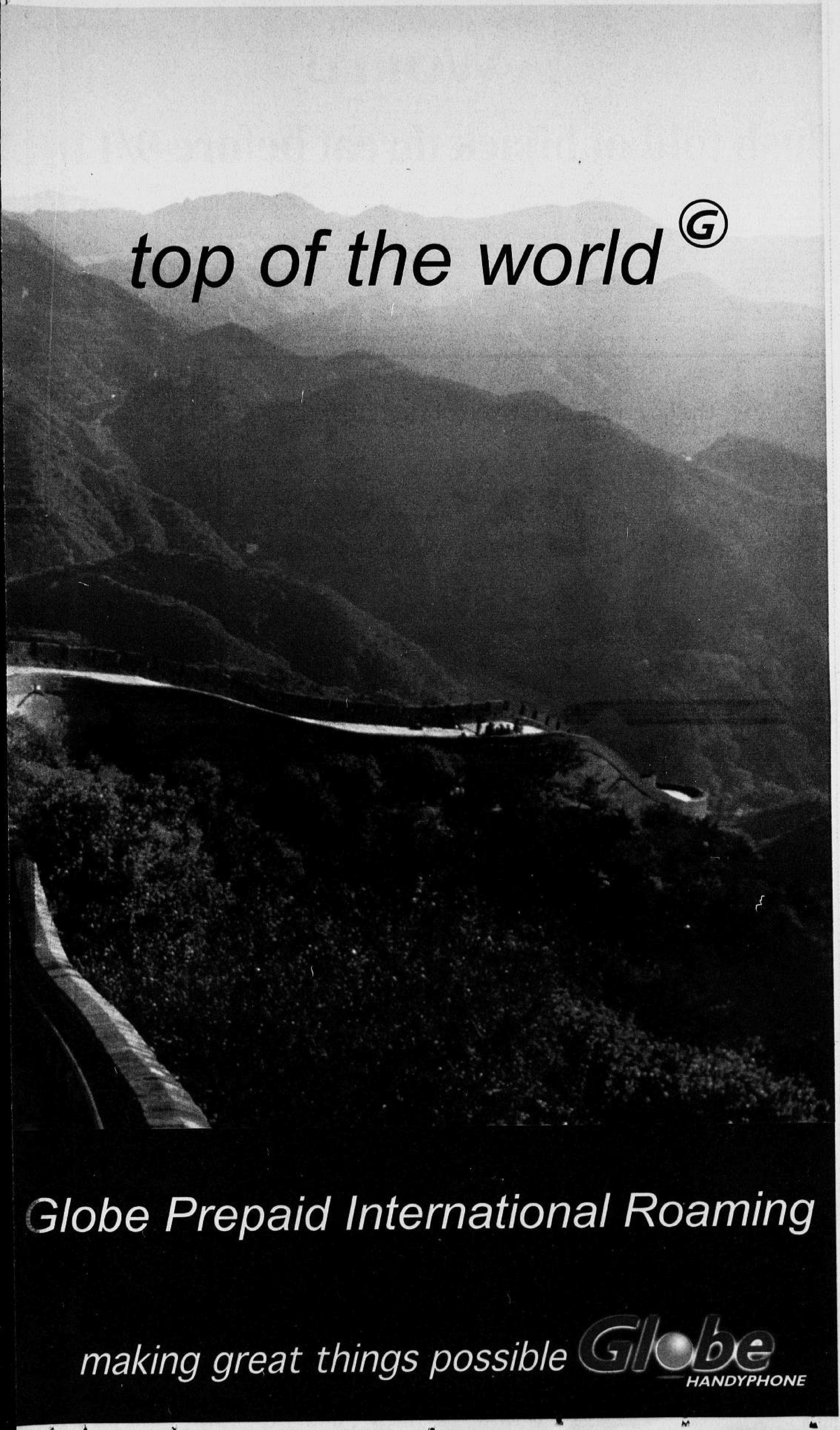
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Bush told of hijack threat before 9/11

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush received intelligence in the months before the Sept. 11 attacks that Osama bin Laden might be plotting to hijack US passenger planes, prompting his administration to put security agencies on alert last summer, the White House said on Wednesday.

But White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said Bush and other senior administration officials had no information to suggest hijacked planes could be used as missiles as they were on Sept. 11 to attack the Pentagon and destroy the World Trade Center.

The disclosure came amid questions about whether US authorities failed to recognize and respond to warnings about possible terrorist attacks prior to the hijackings of the four passenger planes on Sept. 11. The New York Times reported that an FBI agent in Arizona had warned his superiors that Bin Laden might be sending students to US flight schools.

Washington accuses Bin Laden and his al-Qaida network of masterminding the attacks, which killed more than 3,000 people.

"There's been a long-standing awareness in the intelligence community, shared with the president, about the potential for Bin Laden to have hijackings in a traditional sense," Fleischer said.

"The information the president got dealt with hijackings in the traditional sense—not suicide bombers, not using planes as missiles," he added.

This information was presented to Bush last summer. In response, the administration put domestic law enforcement agencies on alert just months before the Sept. 11 attacks, Fleischer said.

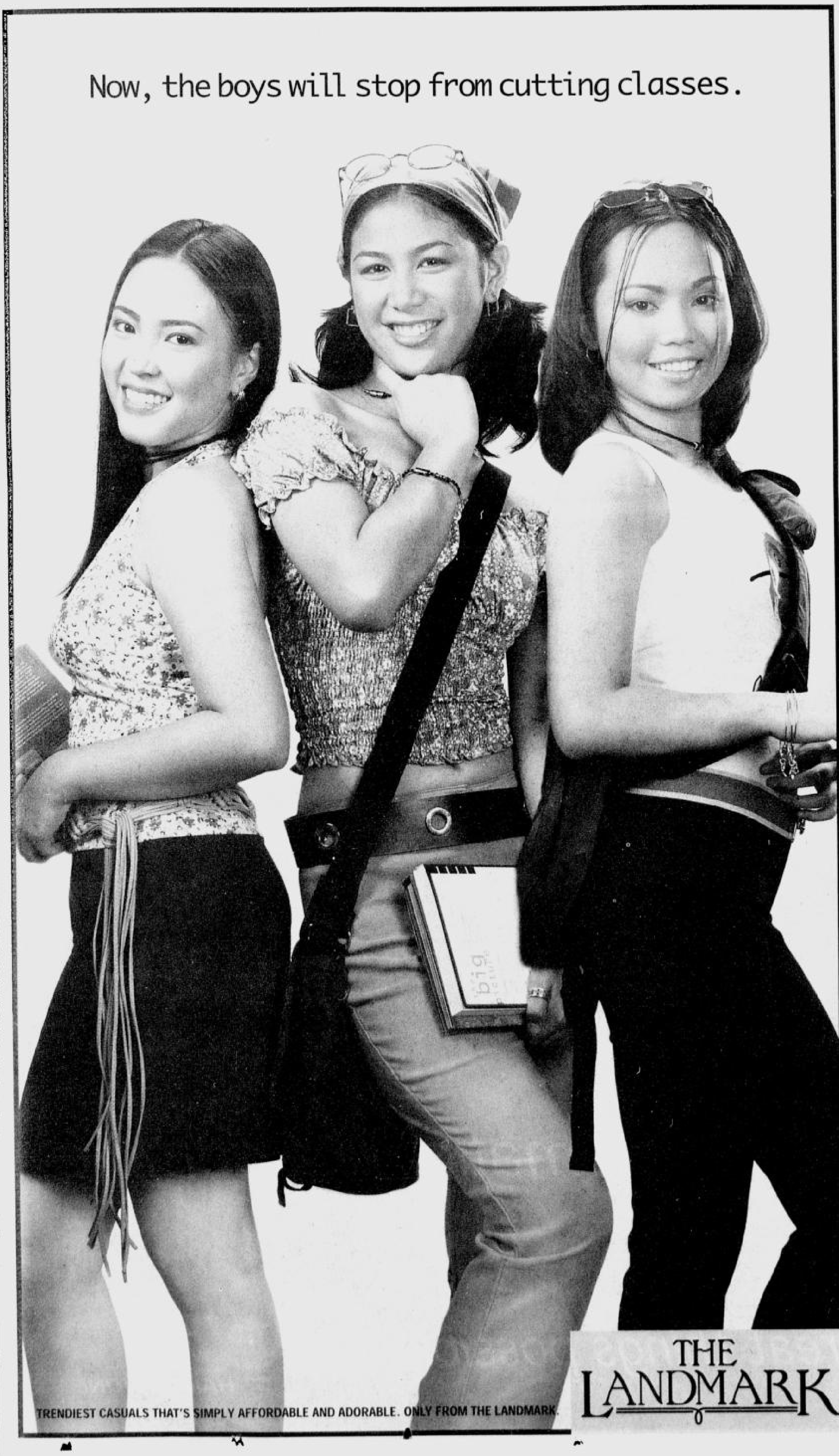
That alert was not announced publicly, but Fleischer said it may have prompted the hijackers to change their tactics.

"The administration, based on hijackings, notified the appropriate agencies and, I think, that's one of the reasons that you saw that the people who committed the 9/11 attacks used box cutters and plastic knives to get around America's system of protecting against hijackings," he said.

Fleischer made the comments following the Times report that an FBI agent urged the bureau to investigate Middle Eastern men enrolled in US flight schools several months before Sept. 11, even naming Bin Laden.

The FBI failed to make a connection between that warning and the August arrest of Zacarias Moussaoui—a French citizen of Moroccan descent detained in Minnesota after raising suspicions among his instructors at a flight school. *Reuters*

BUSH



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Iraq seriously considering arms checks, says US

UNITED NATIONS—Iraq may be seriously considering allowing UN weapons inspectors back into the country after a hiatus of more than three years, an American official said on Wednesday.

"I think a lot of people are telling us the Iraqis are seriously thinking about this now," said James Cunningham, the deputy US representative to the United Nations, in taped comments to a group of reporters.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has held two rounds of talks this year with Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri and plans a third within the next few weeks, perhaps in Vienna rather than New York.

"As long as the secretary general and his people think it is useful to continue this discussion and they think there's a chance of bringing the Iraqis to that point for whatever reason, we think that's a useful thing to do," Cunningham said.

"So we'll see after the next round," he said, adding that no one wanted the discussions to "drag on for months."

The inspectors first went into Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War, spending seven years checking for weapons of mass destruction, a key requirement before any suspension of UN sanctions against Baghdad. The embargoes were imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The inspectors left shortly before the United States and Britain bombed Iraq in December 1998, and have not been allowed to return since.

Annan, after the last round of talks on May 3, said he hoped that when the Iraqis returned "they can take some decisions and come back to us with some positive news."

UN officials said this meant he wanted a clear answer from Iraq in the forthcoming round before any subsequent discussions were scheduled.

Cunningham said Iraq's delegation at the May talks had "ample opportunity to exchange views" with chief UN arms inspector Hans Blix, which he called "a positive development."

The Iraqis earlier submitted political questions to Annan on topics such as US threats to topple President Saddam Hussein and the unilaterally imposed American-British no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq. *Reuters*

Mystery fever hits UK troops in Afghanistan

BAGRAM, Afghanistan—Eighteen British soldiers serving in Afghanistan have been struck by a contagious, but unidentified fever and 350 people have been quarantined to prevent it from spreading, the top British commander in the coalition said Wednesday.

Brig. Roger Lane said the 18 ailing men were all military medical personnel serving with 34 Field Hospital at the main allied air base at Bagram, about 50 km north of the capital, Kabul.

Two of the soldiers were seriously ill and their next of kin have been notified, Lane said. One was evacuated to the United Kingdom for treatment while the second was flown to a US military hospital in Germany. The rest are being cared for by medical staff at Bagram.

"We believe it's some kind of enteric (intestinal) fever, but we have yet to go and establish what exactly it is," Lane said.

Soldiers first started reporting symptoms three days ago, including fever, diarrhea and vomiting, Lane said. The illness was similar to meningitis, but medics did not believe that was the culprit.

Lane said the area around 34 Field Hospital—which consists of a military staff of 350 people—had been isolated and military police were deployed to prevent trespassers.

About 1,700 British troops are currently deployed at Bagram and have been involved in two military operations in eastern Afghanistan since arriving in the country last month. *AP*

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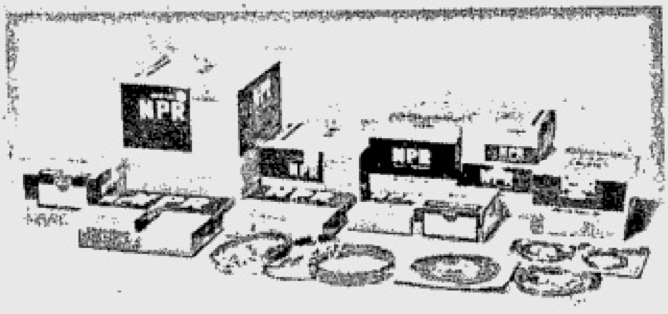

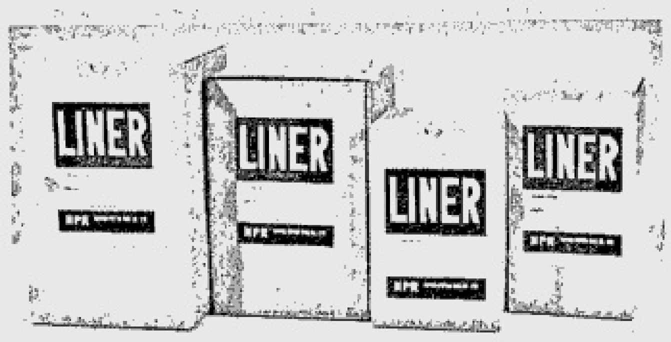

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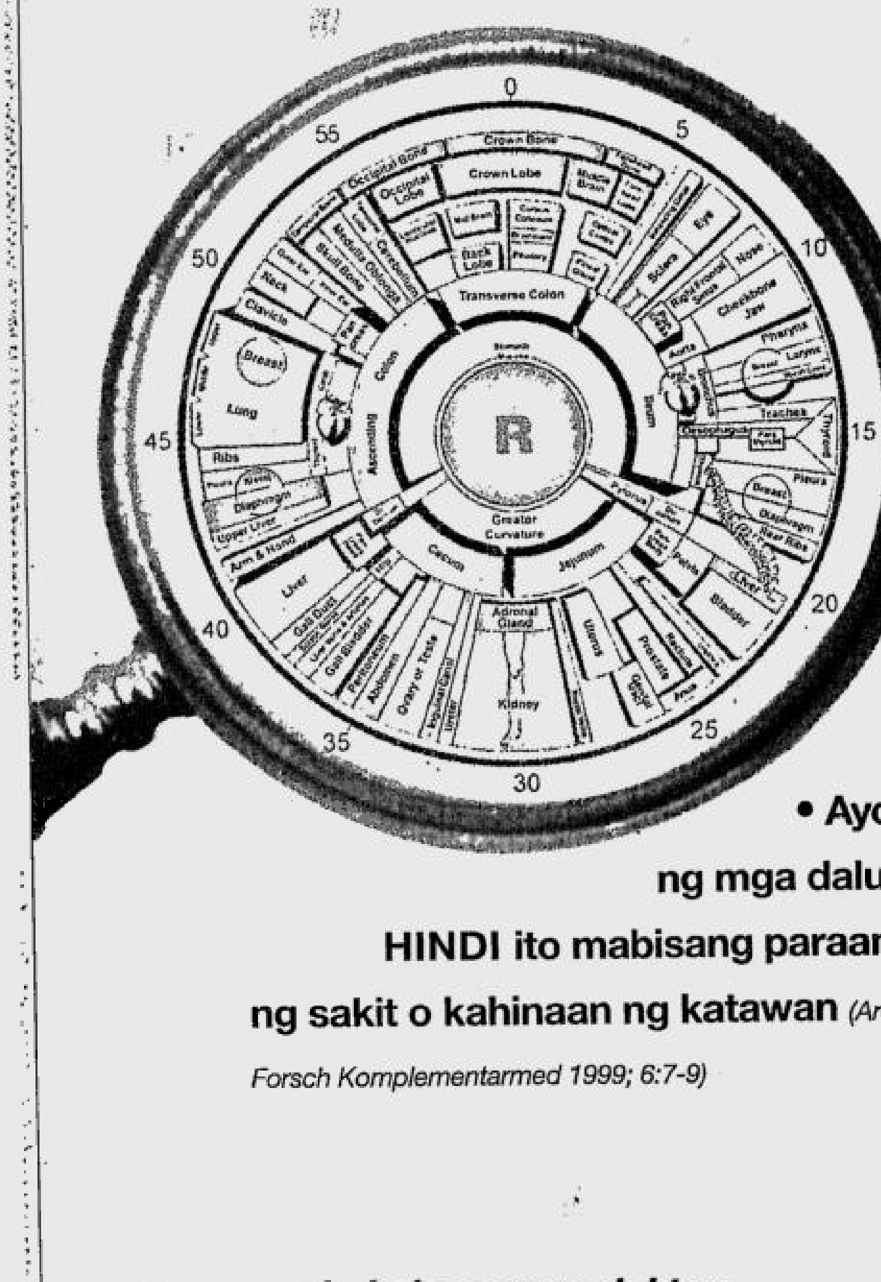

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War clouds seen gathering over India, Pakistan

NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD—Indian and Pakistani newspapers said on Thursday the threat of war was growing with New Delhi expected to retaliate for a deadly raid in Kashmir blamed on Pakistan-based militants.

"War clouds gather," read a headline in India's Asian Age. "We'll take action," said another in the Hindustan Times.

The Pakistani paper, Dawn, said the fear was that the Kashmir attack "could provide India with the pretext for an armed adventure that could trigger a full-scale war" between the nuclear-armed neighbors.

Tuesday's raid on an Army base in the disputed Himalayan Indian state of Kashmir killed 34 people, mainly wives and children of soldiers.

The two countries have massed a million men along their border since December in a confrontation over Kashmir, the trigger of two of their three wars.

That build-up in turn was triggered by a December suicide attack on India's parliament which New Delhi also blamed on Pakistani-based Kashmiri rebels.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting rebellion against its rule in its only Muslim-majority state by arming and training militants and sending them across the heavily militarized border.

Pakistan denies the charge.

But the confrontation is entering a critical phase as the Himalayan snows melt, opening up mountain passes and infiltration routes.

Senior Indian security officials led by Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani and Defense Minister George Fernandes were to meet on Thursday to discuss how to retaliate, a home ministry official said.

Indian newspapers said the government, led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, under fire over religious violence in western India and reeling from a string of regional election routs, was under pressure to act.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee described the Kashmir raid as a "massacre of innocents" and said India would have to take action. He did not elaborate.

Fernandes has also said India must act. "We cannot certainly have this kind of terror go unpunished," he said.

Pakistan has condemned the attack and urged an investigation.

US President George W. Bush, whose administration has stepped up pressure on both sides to defuse tension, condemned the Kashmir attack as terrorism.

US Assistant Secretary of State Christina Rocca, in New Delhi on her third shuttle diplomacy mission to the subcontinent since March, said the raid was aimed at sabotaging efforts to ease tension. ***Reuters***

Murdered Fortuyn's rightist party shines in Dutch elections

AMSTERDAM—Murdered populist Pim Fortuyn's upstart party stormed to second place in Dutch elections as the ruling center-left was routed in the latest example of Europe's dramatic shift to the right.

Voters ditched premier Wim Kok's government in a landslide swing to the conservative Christian Democrats on Wednesday in a country better known for its tolerance of euthanasia, gay marriage and prostitution than for political instability.

The Labor party, in coalition for eight years with the free-market VVD and D66 liberals, suffered its worst defeat since World War II in a momentous election dominated by voter concerns over crime, immigration and public services.

The Christian Democrats (CDA) won decisively, taking 43 of parliament's 150 seats, according to results announced early on Thursday. CDA leader Jan Peter Balkenende, set to head a new coalition, said the victory had surpassed all expectations.

"It's been an unbelievable evening. The CDA is back," Balkenende told jubilant supporters in the Hague. "In just a few months we have shown the vitality of Christian democracy."

The three-month-old Pim Fortuyn List (LPF), still in mourning for its charismatic founder murdered nine days before the election, came second with 26 seats on its election debut.

All three ruling parties hemorrhaged votes, extending a Europe-wide trend that has seen left-leaning governments tumble in the past 12 months in Italy, Denmark, Portugal and France, as support grows for the populist far right.

Formed in March by the openly gay, shaven-headed former academic, Fortuyn's anti-immigrant party gasped at its own success in the most astonishing Dutch election in living memory.

"It's a wonderful result but there is no real joy. Today we feel like orphans. We've lost our teacher," LPF spokesperson Mat Herben told supporters in a chic hotel in The Hague, standing by a framed portrait of Fortuyn and his two pet spaniels.

"If Pim had lived, we would have been the biggest party." ***Reuters***

Church may have shielded pedophile priests in HK

HONG KONG—Police said Thursday that Hong Kong's Roman Catholic Church appears to have been shielding alleged pedophile priests rather than taking action to protect victims of sexual abuse by the clergy.

The lead investigator in eight alleged abuse cases that have emerged since early May has complained that the Church was refusing to hand over written confessions apparently made by some priests during internal church probes.

"It seems that the Church has been protecting its reputation and priests rather than the victims," Police Superintendent Shirley Chu said. Chu spoke to local reporters on Wednesday and her comments were confirmed Thursday by police spokesperson Mackenzie Mak.

The Church has been mired in an unfolding scandal involving alleged sexual abuse of children by as many as six priests who have worked in Hong Kong.

Allegations that the Church knew of the abuse but did not inform the authorities have mirrored some of the complaints in a massive child sex abuse case that has rocked the US Catholic Church.

Hong Kong church officials say some cases were confirmed in internal investigations and that they now have adopted a "zero tolerance" policy toward child sex abuse, including helping the police as appropriate.

But a spokesperson, the Rev. Lawrence Lee, has been quoted by local media as saying confessions by priests would not be handed over because that would violate the trust the priests placed in their superiors when they confessed.

The investigators are asking Hong Kong Justice Secretary Elsie Leung whether they might have grounds for seeking a court order demanding that the Church produce the confessions, police spokesperson S.Y. Ho said Thursday.

Lee did not immediately respond to a reporter's inquiry about the latest police allegations. ***AP***

DUST IN THE WIND REUTERS

A Chinese woman covers her head to protect herself from the dust in Shenyang, capital of China's northeastern province of Liaoning, May 16. Extensive deforestation and desertification in northern China have exacerbated the dust problem.

Arafat bows to pressure, orders overhaul of Palestinian Authority

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat bowed to international pressure Wednesday and ordered a complete overhaul of his Palestinian Authority as well as new elections.

He also shouldered the blame for unpopular deals to break the Israeli siege of his compound.

"I will present a new formula for the administration of the Palestinian Authority and its ministries and security apparatus in order to rebuild it on a firmer basis," he told a special parliamentary session.

"We want to totally separate the judicial, executive and parliamentary branches," he said.

"We must prepare for elections and prepare for reforms. But let me have some time to prepare for that," he said.

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said Arafat had told him he planned to hold legislative polls followed by municipal elections "as soon as possible, either at the end of the summer or the start of the fall."

The polls would give "a bit of breath to democratic life and to the life of Palestinian structures," he said.

A White House spokesperson said US President George W. Bush wanted "action that will lead to a better life for the Palestinian people and will enhance the prospects for an enduring peace."

Arafat said he was still dedicated to peace with Israel.

"Peace was and will remain our strategic option. I will never give it away . . . between us and the Israelis, because peace is in our joint interest," he said.

He also reiterated calls for an end to attacks on Israeli civilians, saying they boosted Israel's international standing to the detriment of the Palestinians.

Arafat was speaking on the 54th anniversary of the creation of the state of Israel, a day known as the "catastrophe" to Palestinians, and which spurred anti-Israeli demonstrations in several Arab countries.

He also took personal responsibility for highly unpopular deals that ended the sieges at his offices and Bethlehem's Nativity Church by the Israeli Army.

"I am fully responsible. Do not blame anyone but myself. But whatever happened, happened based on international guarantees," he told the assembled deputies.

But he said reforms, called for by the international community, Israel and many of his own ministers and security chiefs, were sorely needed in the current crisis.

"We are now badly in need of reevaluation of our policies and our plans, in order to repair our errors, to correct our march toward independence," which remains the Palestinian goal, said Arafat.

Palestinian ministers have been increasingly calling for an overhaul ever since the end of Israel's devastating invasion of West Bank cities throughout April in the wake of a series of bloody Palestinian suicide bombings. *AFP*

Top Croatian Serbs surrender to UN tribunal

THE HAGUE—Croatian Serb wartime leader Milan Martic and former commander Mile Mrksic turned themselves in to face war crimes trial in the Netherlands Wednesday, the latest in a string of Serb indictees to surrender to the UN tribunal under pressure from Belgrade.

Martic, 56, the former president of the self-proclaimed Serb Republic of Krajina, and Mrksic, 54, commander of Serb forces who laid siege to Vukovar for three months in 1991, were detained after arriving in the Netherlands on a regular flight from Belgrade, court spokesperson Jim Landale said.

Their surrender was welcomed in Croatia where government forces fought a brutal war with Belgrade-backed Serb separatists who captured one-third of the territory. About 20,000 people died in the 1991-1995 conflict.

Sounding confident, Martic said "I am not guilty" before leaving Belgrade and vowed to "fight for the truth about my people" at the trial before the international tribunal based in The Hague.

Martic is indicted for ordering cluster bomb attacks on the Croatian capital Zagreb in May 1995 that left seven dead and wounded dozens more in retaliation for a Croatian military operation to retake territory occupied by Serb rebels.

Maric was appointed in February 1994 as the last "president" of the breakaway Serb republic, and was in charge in 1995 when the Croatian Army launched an offensive which left hundreds of Serbs dead and sent over 200,000 fleeing into Bosnia and Serbia.

The only one of three "Vukovar" indictees to surrender so far, Mrksic faces the more serious charge of crimes against humanity.

He is indicted on four counts of war crimes and two for crimes against humanity for the massacre of some 250 non-Serb civilians and soldiers rounded up at Vukovar hospital on Nov. 20, 1991 and executed.

The indictment names Mrksic as commander of the Serb brigade which laid siege to Vukovar, virtually destroying the once wealthy Danube port.

"I confirm that Milan Martic has arrived at the detention center" in The Hague, said Landale. "Mile Mrksic has also arrived at the detention center." *AFP*

Plan to attack EU meet foiled, says Spain

MADRID—Spanish authorities on Wednesday said they had foiled a plan by armed Basque separatist group ETA to attack a summit of Latin American and European leaders in Madrid this week.

Francisco Javier Ansuategui, delegate for Madrid for Spain's ruling Popular Party, said two suspected ETA members detained on Tuesday had stockpiled some 200 kilos of explosives, a limpet mine, automatic weapons and forged documents in an apartment in the capital.

"These two individuals did not want just to frighten people. They wanted to kill, and kill with all the implications that would have within the framework of the European Union summit," Ansuategui told a news conference.

"Their apartment was a real arsenal," he said, adding that police were hunting a suspected third member of the "Madrid commando" who had gone into hiding.

Delegates have already begun to arrive for Friday's opening ceremony for the EU-Latin America summit, to which 48 heads of state have been invited.

Security measures have been especially tight at EU summits during Spain's six-month rotating presidency of the 16-nation bloc, but so far no ETA attacks have taken place.

ETA, which stands for Basque Homeland and Freedom in the Basque language, is listed as a terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union. It has claimed responsibility for 39 killings since January 2000, when it resumed violence after an 18-month ceasefire. *Reuters*

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3 slain as anti-kidnapping operation leads to shootout

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Gerry T. Pagharion
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMALAG, Capiz—Three persons were killed on Wednesday when an entrapment operation related to an alleged kidnapping case turned into a shootout in Dumalag town, Capiz.

Killed were Dindo Salazar, the alleged kidnapper, Perla Erada-Pasoquin, 57, a chemist and sister of kidnap victim Madelyn Erada, and Army Private First Class Jeneth Bacanto.

A National Bureau of Investigation operative, Clenio Calleja, suffered a wound in the head while Erada was rescued unharmed.

Dindo and his wife Marivic had been allegedly keeping Erada, 41, of Cubao, Quezon City, in their residence in Poblacion Ilaya since May 9.

A 45-minute shootout occurred around 2 p.m. at the toll station owned by the Salazars in the poblacion after a composite team of NBI agents and soldiers from the Army's Task Force Panay set up an entrapment operation against the couple.

Marivic could not be reached for comment as she was still in a state of shock. She reportedly sought refuge in the office of Mayor Ricardo Castro, which was about 150 meters from her residence.

NBI regional director Carlos Saunar told reporters in Iloilo City that the Salazar couple allegedly met Erada at around 4 p.m. on May 9 at the Manila domestic airport and forced her to take a Cebu Pacific flight to Iloilo City.

Erada was then sending off her 14-year-old son to Iloilo City.

When they arrived in Iloilo City, the Salazars demanded money from Pasoquin for the release of her sister. The victim stayed overnight in a house owned by the Salazars and was taken the next day to Dumalag.

In her statement to the NBI on May 14, Pasoquin said the Salazars demanded P500,000 for her sister's release.

She went to the Salazar residence in Dumalag on May 10 and gave P14,000 in cash and an additional P20,000 that she withdrew from an automated teller machine at the Bank of the Philippine Island branch in Roxas City, Capiz.

The second pay off was set on Wednesday with the Salazars demanding P100,000 in cash.

Saunar said the shootout occurred after Pasoquin handed to Salazar marked money worth P15,000.

He said Dindo Salazar, who was expecting P100,000, probably got irked and immediately shot dead Pasoquin and later Bacanto, one of the four soldiers who accompanied the NBI agents.

The NBI agents and soldiers fired back, killing Dindo Salazar but they failed to recover the handgun, marked money and other pieces of evidence.

Saunar said they presumed these were with the Dumalag police.

But lawyer Nelly Abao-Lee, a family friend of the couple, said Erada voluntarily went with the Salazar couple to settle her debt amounting to P180,000.

Lee said the couple and the Erada sisters went to her house in Dao Town around 7:30 p.m. May 10. During that time, she said she notarized a waiver executed by Erada, signifying that she went with the couple on her free will.

Boy, 14, draws prison term for girl's rape

By Lezlee Santillan and Monette Bernabe
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—For raping a 9-year-old girl last year, a 14-year-old boy escaped the lethal injection but might have to spend a maximum of 13 years in prison when he reaches 18 years old and if he misbehaves.

Judge Amado Caguioa of the regional trial court here on Wednesday found the boy guilty of raping the girl twice in November and December last year.

The boy initially pleaded innocent to the charges. But before the pre-trial of the case, he expressed his desire to withdraw his earlier plea and enter guilty.

On being re-arraigned, the boy pleaded guilty to both offenses. Caguioa said under the law, the penalty is death since rape was committed on a complainant who was only 9 years old.

Slain journalist's mom seeks revenge for son

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

CLARIN, Bohol—"They took away one life. They should pay with their lives."

So declared a shaking Jesusita Palomeras-Damalerio, 67, mother of slain journalist Edgar Damalerio, when interviewed on Wednesday in her home in Barangay Lajog, Clarin town, 67 kilometers north of the capital Tagbilaran City.

"If I were younger, I would have considered avenging my son's death myself," Jesusita said.

She said she still has to come to terms with the death of Edgar, managing editor of the weekly newspaper Zamboanga Scribe and commentator of RPN9-dxKP radio station in Pagadian.

Jesusita said she was not even sure if she could go to her son's funeral in Pagadian.

Jesusita said she was still in a state of shock because of her son's death.

"I had repeatedly told him to quit his job," Jesusita said after Edgar's wife Gemma expressed apprehensions over his safety.

She said Gemma told her that suspicious men had followed Edgar because of his exposés.

Jesusita recalled telling her son to look for another job because "you won't live long there."

Edgar had reportedly crossed powerful people in Pagadian City in his opinion column titled "Markang X."

"This is the job I prefer," she recalled Edgar telling her.

Edgar frequently visited her mother, sometimes twice a month, upon the request of his siblings. Edgar is the fifth among the six children of Jesusita and the late Vidal Damalerio.

His last visit was on April 27 when he brought with him his three-month-old son. He also took the occasion to go home when his wife Gemma had a seminar to attend in Tagbilaran.

A confidant of the slain journalist, who declined to be identified, said Edgar was supposed to arrive in Clarin on May 12.

"We talked over the phone on the afternoon before he was killed. He told me that he still had work to do and decided to postpone his trip this Friday," the confidant said.

Edgar planned to attend the fiesta in Barangay Cansibao, Valencia town, the hometown of his wife Gemma.

He was also expected at the inauguration of a chapel in honor of Saint Vincent, the patron saint of Sitio Kamagayan in Lajog.

Although Edgar was a Mormon, his confidant said Edgar told him that he had decided to be baptized as a Roman Catholic again.

The chapel, which he built on land owned by his family, was originally intended to be inaugurated on May 15. But it was postponed when Edgar called to say there had been a change in his schedule.

But on Monday night, two unidentified men gunned down Edgar while he was driving his owner-type jeep about 300 meters away from the city's police station in Pagadian City.

ABB

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

We feel obliged to respond to the recent press reports regarding the "rigged bidding" of the WESM project of Transco,' which we believe was probably a result of misinformation and/or misquotation.

The WESM contract has not been awarded to ABB as reported. There have been press reports since more than a week ago that the Transco Board had recommended to the World Bank that the contract be awarded to Alstom. We have not yet received any official communication on this matter from either Transco/NPC, or the World Bank.

As per World Bank rules, the bid prices were opened in public in February. ABB did not submit the highest bid as reported.

The prices and numbers reported in the press appear to be totally detached from reality. ABB's submitted price for the Interim System is US$ 5,493,466, and for the Final System, approximately US$15 million, with a discount of US$ 3 million, if awarded both.

One needs to consider that the volume of transactions that will flow through the WESM can amount to billions of pesos a day, on a real time basis.

The Interim System is scheduled for 4 months completion, and the schedule for the Final System is to be determined at a later stage. The amounts bidded are one-of payments, and there is no annual fee or 25 year contract as reported in the press.

In these recent press releases, ABB has been accused of "grossly overpricing". On the contrary, we believe that we have submitted an extremely competitive price, based on full compliance, and in certain areas, exceeding the requirements of the bid documents. We base this claim on price levels of comparable bids that we have submitted and won recently in other countries, the latest one being just a couple of months ago in South Korea.

We are able submit such low-price bids, which are fully compliant, because the main cost, which is the software, has largely been developed by ABB for another market which has similar rules to the requirements of the WESM for the Philippines. This also then assures ABB's capability of fast-tracking delivery and implementation. Our reference installations include the California ISO, New York ISO and Ontario IMO, which are among the world's biggest electricity markets.

As the world's largest electrical engineering company globally employing some 152,000 people in more than 100 countries, ABB has consistently lived by its mission and core values of technological innovation, customer satisfaction, social responsibility and most importantly, integrity.

Established in the 1960's in the Philippines, Asea Brown Boveri Inc today employs in excess of 200 Filipinos, more than half of whom are technical staff, many of them had trained, and worked in ABB centres in the highly developed countries around the world.

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ADVT.

Coup threat gone, says GMA

SURIGAO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has confidently announced here that there was no more threat of destabilization against her administration.

Since her assumption into power following the ouster of President Joseph Estrada last year, rumors of coup d' etat from disgruntled groups within the police and the military have hounded her administration.

"But now, there are no more destabilization attempts against my administration," Ms Macapagal said in Cebuano during the inauguration of the P27-million passenger terminal here on Tuesday afternoon.

She said her recent provincial visits could attest to the absence of any threat against her administration, unlike in the past when she had to cancel her sorties because of reported destabilization plots.

The absence of threats against her administration could be the reason Ms Macapagal is in a light mood these days.

In Cagayan de Oro City, the president spent some time for a river rafting session in Barangay Mambuaya.

Reporters covering her visit took notice of the unusually relaxed security as they met the President at the riverbank after she completed three rapids. ***Grace Cantal-Albasin, Franklin Caliguid and Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Co-op head sues NEA for takeover

THE GENERAL manager of the electric cooperative that supplies power to the world-famous resort island of Boracay has filed graft charges against a top official of the National Electrification Administration (NEA) for her alleged attempt to oust him.

In a criminal complaint filed with the Office of the Ombudsman, Leovegildo Mationg accused NEA deputy administrator for cooperative development Edita S. Buenco of conspiring with the board of directors of the Aklan Electric Cooperative (Akelco) to take over the cooperative.

Akelco, based in Kalibo, supplies power to several towns in Aklan, including Malay, the municipality where Boracay is found.

Mationg in a statement alleged that Bueno "willfully, unlawfully and feloniously allowed herself to be persuaded, induced, or influenced by an illegal board member to issue a directive" suspending Mationg.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with sattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI36° Lo 25°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 26° Lo 17°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 40° Lo 24°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 26°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 36° Lo 26°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 26°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 35° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Loyesa, PDI Research/05/17/02

ROUNDUP

Rice for the hungry

BACOLOD CITY—Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has ordered the release of 15,000 bags of seized smuggled rice to Bacolod City and Negros Occidental amid complaints by farmer groups here of widespread hunger in rural areas due to their failure to grow crops because of the prolonged dry season. Provincial board member Edgardo Acuña said 1,000 bags would be released to Bacolod City, through Mayor Luzviminda Valdez; 6,000 to Bacolod City through Rep. Monico Puentevella; and 8,000 to the Negros Occidental provincial government. The farmers earlier camped at the city hall and capitol grounds and at the residence of Puentevella, demanding that they be given rice.
Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Lack of teachers

PALO, Leyte—Eastern Visayas will get only 300 of the 15,000 teachers hired by the Department of Education for school year 2002-2003. Sol Matugas, DepEd regional director, however, said the number is not enough to address the lack of teachers in the region especially when they were anticipating a 10-percent rise in the number of enrollees this year. She said Eastern Visayas would need at least 7,000 new teachers for both elementary and high school levels to achieve the ideal ratio of one teacher for every 45 students. The ratio now is 65 students per teacher, she added. ***Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

'Jueteng' men arrested

LEGAZPI CITY—Police raided a "*jueteng*" den in Barangay Batobalani, Paracale, Camarines Norte, on May 8, resulting in the arrest of 14 persons, and the confiscation of P11,607 in cash and other jueteng paraphernalia. Bicol police director Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr. said they have already filed criminal charges against the suspects for violating the illegal gambling law at the Municipal Trial Court of Paracale, Camarines Norte. ***Tony S. Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Bicol crimes up

LEGAZPI CITY—More crimes were reported in the Bicol region from January to March this year compared to last year. The Bicol police, however, solved 337 cases of the 370 total crimes reported, claiming to achieve a 91-percent efficiency rate. Of the crime volume, 215 were crimes against persons and property while 155 were committed in violation of special laws. The average monthly crime rate was 8.09 per 100,000 persons.
Tony S. Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Drug suspect nabbed

LEGAZPI CITY—Personnel of the military, police and Air Force arrested a suspected drug dealer during a raid in the suspect's house in Villa Jacinta Subdivision, Barangay Cruzada, Legazpi City on May 13. Arrested was Jonathan Lim. The raid also yielded gadgets used for repacking shabu and P16,556 in different denominations believed to be proceeds from the sale of shabu. ***Tony S. Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Cop's wife arrested

DAVAO CITY—Police here arrested the wife of a policeman after a raid on the couple's house in Buhangin District on Monday yielded marijuana. Maritess Arbiol is now detained but her husband, PO2 Constancio Arbiol Jr. of the Pantukan police station, remains at large. Supt. Efren Valeriano said a manhunt has been launched for the policeman. He said that drug charges are also being prepared against Mrs. Arbiol. ***Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Vigilante killings

DAVAO CITY—Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, Southern Mindanao police chief, had revived Task Force Vigilance after the resurgence of vigilante-related killings. At least two suspected criminals were killed last week. Matillano said he already ordered task force commander Senior Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino to look into the recent killings, which involved suspected robbers and drug pushers. The task force was created last year to look into reports that Mayor Rodrigo Duterte was behind the operation of the Davao Death Squad (DDS). ***Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao***

Illegal recruiter

DAVAO CITY—Police arrested a suspected illegal recruiter here inside a department store on Monday. Leonida Saberolla, 44 and a resident of New Matina District, was arrested while receiving P10,000 from a job applicant for Korea. Senior Insp. Fulgencio Pavo, chief of the Heinous Crime and Investigation Section of the Davao City Police Office, said the entrapment was set after police received at least nine complaints against Saberolla. The complainants said they have paid the suspect as early as January but the promised deployment to Korea did not materialize. Pavo said they checked with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, but Saberolla's name was not in the list of those who had licenses to recruit. ***Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

‘Selective defreezing of Swiss funds’

From page A1

“Based on PCGG records, there was a selective defreezing of the Marcos deposits in Credit Suisse in 1986 which resulted in the redocumentation and eventual transfer of certain deposits before and even after a freeze order was issued by the Swiss Banking Commission,” the document said.

“The persons involved in these transactions are Ernest Scheller, Mr. Grob, Ulrich Siegfried, Hern Johannes and Dr. Ivo Beck. Are these persons still alive? Is it possible to secure from them testimonial evidence on the Marcos deposits?” the PCGG wrote in the interim agenda.

Mostly in the dark

From these notes, it was apparent that the PCGG, 15 years after the promise of cooperation from Swiss authorities, is still mostly in the dark about the status of the Marcos wealth stashed abroad. It did not even know that Beck died in September 1991.

Not even Martin Kurer, the PCGG’s supposedly trusted and highly paid Swiss lawyer, had informed the PCGG about Beck’s death, which is common knowledge in Swiss banking circles.

The PCGG also mentioned Lalag Corp. and Galalsa AG bank, noting that these had also been used to hide Marcos funds.

The PCGG still has pending petitions for International Mutual Assistance on Criminal Matters on these accounts and those held for the benefit of Aurora Foundation, Palmonte Foundation, Lasano Foundation and Carmelo Foundation—all are suspected of holding unfrozen Marcos Swiss deposits.

But Switzerland had been slow in providing the PCGG documents on these accounts and information concerning undetermined amounts of Marcos deposits in six banks in Switzerland that had admitted to administering certain assets of the Marcos family.

The six banks are Schweizerischer Bankverein, Basel; Armand Von Ernst & Cie AG, Bern; Schweizerische Volksbank, Bern; Banque Gutzwiller, Kurz, Bungener SA, Geneva; Chemical Bank (Suisse) SA, Geneva; and, Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corp., KH, Zurich Branch.

Long wait

One PCGG commissioner noted that Swiss authorities were taking their time in providing the Philippine government documents on bank accounts of the Marcoses, hampering their early recovery.

“The waiting time is not a matter of months, but years,” he said.

Just the same, Swiss authorities have expressed concern with the turtle-like pace of court cases involving the Marcoses and their cronies.

In their discussion with the PCGG, Swiss officials reiterated their willingness to continue helping their Philippine counterparts but they pointed out that they also needed updates from the Philippine side.

Wary

PCGG sources said Swiss prosecutors had observed that Swiss courts were “increasingly wary of preserving freeze orders after so many years have passed.”

The Swiss prosecutors said this development may run counter to the “proscription against the de facto confiscation of property without due process” and the “general requirement that legal action must commence within 15 years of the legal cause of the event.”

Last year, the PCGG followed up the “transfer of the complete bank documen[illegible] Lalag Corp. and/or Galalsa AG.”

In its 2001 accomplishment report, the PCGG said the request for transfer of documents included any assets held for the benefit of Foundations Aurora, Carmello, Palmonte and Lasano with Credit Suisse, in Zug; Compagnie Banque et d’ Investissements, Geneva; and, Compagnie de Gestion et de Banque Gonet SA, Nyon Affida Bank and Bank in Luzern, Luzern.

The PCGG said the assets were the subject of a memorandum titled “The 1986 Selective De-Freezing of Marcos’ Deposits in Credit Suisse, Zurich and its Relevance to the Ongoing Investigation into the Remaining Marcos Deposits in Switzerland” dated Oct. 7, 2000. The PCGG refused to give the INQUIRER a copy of this document.

Besides these assets, the Marcoses have deposits in the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS). No less than Irene Marcos Araneta disclosed to Deutsche Bank in February 2001 that she had accounts, not limited to the 885931 client account number, with UBS.

She had wanted these accounts transferred to Deutsche Bank in Dusseldorf but she failed to get the funds from UBS through Swiss lawyer Patrick Foetisch.

Difficulties

Sources said other members of the Marcos family had been having difficulties in getting their funds out of Swiss and Liechtenstein banks because of mechanisms put in place to protect the banks from being found out that they had been dealing with Marcos money.

Ironically, PCGG officials would not act on information that big amounts of Marcos funds had not been disclosed to them by their Swiss counterparts.

A case in point is the admission made by no less than a former UBS director for communication, Gertrud Erismann-Peyer, to a German television crew of Stern TV led by journalist Peter F. Muller.

In the interview, conducted inside the offices of UBS headquarters in Zurich in October 1991, she admitted that UBS had been keeping Marcos accounts.

At the start of the interview, Peyer denied that UBS was keeping Marcos money.

But Muller kept on asking her while the TV cameras rolled, “There is not single account of Ferdinand Marcos at UBS?”

Peyer said, “I told you already, none. I told you, he didn’t have one.” Muller asked, “None at all?” Peyer replied, “Except the small one.”

“What does that mean, a small one?” asked Muller. “A few million,” said Peyer.

“(But) you have already just said you never had any relationship with Mr. Marcos or his associates?” Muller asked.

“No, there is no contradiction (to what I said),” Peyer responded. “But the official relationship with the Philippine government, whose President is Mr. Marcos, you do confirm?” Muller asked.

Peyer answered, “Of course, but this is something completely different. We were dealing with a legitimate government—as long as somebody is in power (it is) a legitimate government. As with other countries as well, we had bank relationships and those are always relationships between banks. Of course, we were dealing with them.”

Admission

The PCGG did not ask Swiss authorities to question Peyer about her admission, which would make her liable under Article 47 of the Swiss Federal Banking Law. No action had been taken against her.

When the INQUIRER tried to contact Peyer at UBS last year, bank personnel said that she was no longer the communications director and that they would not talk to the media.

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga himself explained that there was a “one-month gap between the time when they (the Marcoses) arrived in Hawaii on Feb. 26, 1986 and when the Swiss Federal Council, on March 24-25, 1986, imposed a freeze on the Marcos deposits in the Swiss banks.”

“Within that one-month period, the Marcoses through their trustees in Switzerland were able to redocument, conceal and move around their enormous Swiss deposits which I estimated to be around $10 billion in 1986,” Salonga said.

He said that the former first lady Imelda Marcos herself had admitted that “there is more wealth that this government is not yet aware of, but for the time being, I can admit that there is only $800 million kept in various international banks, but I cannot reveal them.”

The Marcoses have also admitted that they had a lot more wealth abroad in their proposed compromise settlement with then PCGG Chair Magtanggol Gunigundo on Dec. 28, 1983 than what the Philippine government had found. They said they would endeavor to get back the wealth on a 75-25 sharing basis.

“The 75-25 percent ratio would of course apply to what has already been found by the Philippine government. What they promised did not materialize. The compromise agreement was declared void by the Supreme Court in December 1998,” Salonga said.

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Per DTI Permit No.1700, Series of 2002.

'Gentlemen, I'm . . .

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with one voice."

●After securing the support of the board of generals, Reyes invited the Vice President to join them at the dining room. There he introduced her to the generals as their new commander in chief . . .

●Reyes: " . . . She met me at about 12 noon. We waited for the Vice President. She came and then we talked. I said we are giving our support to her as the constitutionally mandated successor and she said OK . . . After that, we had the major service commanders picked up and then brought to the safe house. I met and discussed it with them and then they all agreed to join so it was complete. After that I called up (President Estrada). We talked for about 45 minutes . . . At 11:30 when I was in the office, through my aide, (I got a) message from (President Estrada), "You report to Malacañang immediately." I said they know already so I said I will not go there anymore.

●At 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 19, 2001, the military high command, led by Gen. Angelo Reyes, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, walked up on the stage of the Edsa shrine, where leaders of the civil uprising were assembled, and declared the withdrawal of their support from President Estrada.

●On behalf of the 113,000-strong Armed Forces of the Philippines, we wish to announce that we are withdrawing our support from the incumbent President. We will support his constitutionally mandated successor under Article 2, section 3, of the Constitution . . . the AFP must protect the people and state.

●Reyes announced his decision and asked them if they were with him. He started with (Gen. Diomedio) Villanueva, the Army commander, who headed the most powerful command in the Armed Forces. Sure enough Villanueva openly supported Reyes' decision.

●Next, Reyes turned to Admiral (Guillermo) Wong to ask if he was with him: "*Ikaw, kasama ka ba?*" The admiral hesitated, but later said "yes." A senior officer in the Navy had another version. According to him, Reyes, after noting Wong's hesitation, told the Navy chief, "That is my decision." Apparently robbed of the initiative, according to witnesses, the other generals, when asked themselves, just went along. "*Tuloy-tuloy na. Naunahan na sila ni Angie,*" the witnesses said.

●Before the headcount, Reyes had seen to it that he had the support of the units in the field under the command of the service chiefs, inside sources said. If they had not fallen in line, said the source, "they would have been generals without an army. We already talked to their men . . . not to make a move."

●Some commanders asked what to do with the orders for them to report to Malacañang. Reyes asserted his authority and said: "Don't make a move, stay where you are."

●Reyes: "I ordered them to shut off their cellular phones to avoid further calls from Malacañang Palace."

●Reyes: "They started to call up the generals. They called up the generals, Malacañang . . . They called those two guys, (Librado) Ladia and (Gregorio) Camiling. They said, 'Sir, I'm being asked to report to Malacañang. What will I do?' I said you do not go there. You stay put."

●Although (Fortunato) Abat had discussed the broad outlines of the retired generals' plans with Reyes, there is no evidence he reported these to the President or sought their arrest for sedition.

●(Lisandro) Abadia joined the camp of Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo in October, and found General de Villa there. Abadia resumed contact with the Army Commander Villanueva, an ally of Reyes. He also told Villanueva he would be talking with some of his generals and unit commanders, a move Villanueva did not block.

●Abat said, "So long as we were doing our work aboveground and they were doing their job silently underground, we did not meddle with each other." Abat was referring to the high-profile activity of the retired generals and to the contacts between Reyes and (Leo) Alvez, Reyes' classmate at the (Philippine Military Academy).

●Reyes says: "The members of the battle staff at the AFP joint operations center relayed my orders to all field commanders to keep their forces inside their respective camps and to all intelligence units to monitor any unauthorized troop movements. After they were advised to await any further instructions from me, I ordered them to shut off their cellular phones to avoid further calls from Malacañang Palace and to communicate through the AFP radio network instead."

Erap pals sue Edsa II generals

From page A1

people had spoken."

In Malacañang, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said the complaint had come "too late in the day."

He pointed out that the Supreme Court had long affirmed the legitimacy of the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, which came to power as a result of People Power II.

"It would be very difficult for this case to prosper because to give validity to (the complainants') arguments would in effect be (to reverse) the legitimacy of the entire administration," Afable said.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto told reporters that his office would immediately conduct a preliminary investigation as to "whether there was a law violated" and come up with recommendations "within a week."

1 year later

The complainants filed the case one year and four months after Estrada's ouster and just over a year after he was arrested and detained on plunder charges.

They accused Reyes et al of violating Article 134-A of the Revised Penal Code or Republic Act 6968, which the 8th Congress passed to deter coup attempts similar to those that rocked the Aquino administration.

"In January 2001, a coup d'etat was staged by the respondents," the complainants said, alluding to the events of People Power II that climaxed in the withdrawal of military support by Reyes, then AFP chief of staff, from Estrada.

"Respondents deliberately removed the allegiance of the entire AFP from their commander in chief, President Estrada, thereby depriving the Chief Executive of all powers and prerogatives as the duly constituted authority," the complainants said.

They also cited Reyes et al for having "deliberately prevented and hindered (Estrada) from mobilizing military commanders to stop the overthrow of a duly constituted authority," and for having "denied (him) vital intelligence information with the corresponding contingency plan to counteract threats to overthrow duly constituted authority."

Olivares and company said that "to date, none of the respondents (has) gone on record to dispute the contents of Mr. Doronila's book insofar as they were concerned."

They lifted from the book passages on the AFP top command's recognition of then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo as Estrada's "constitutionally mandated successor," and their appearance at the Edsa Shrine on Jan. 20.

They underscored Reyes' remark, as reported by Doronila, wherein the then AFP chief of staff told his fellow generals in jest: "Gentlemen, I'm sure you know that we've just committed mutiny."

Villanueva, then Army chief, was included in the complaint for having "openly supported Reyes' decision," again based on Doronila's book.

Abat was cited for having "discussed the broad outlines of the retired generals' plans with Reyes . . ."

The complainants said, "there is no evidence he (Abat) reported these to the President or sought (the retired generals') arrest for sedition."

The complaint carried no particular charge against Alvez, who was surprised to hear of the complaint.

"Is it a crime to tell people the truth?" said Alvez, now a board member of the San Miguel Corp. "I did not convince people to do something, I just told them the facts. If it's a crime to tell the truth, then so be it."

Separate issue

Desierto personally received the five complainants around 11 a.m. at the Ombudsman's newly inaugurated building on Agham Road in Quezon City.

In an interview, Banayo said their action against Reyes et al was a "separate issue" from that concerning the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

In fact, he said, Ms Macapagal "should thank us" for filing such a complaint against the generals who supposedly turned the country "into a banana republic" through their action.

"Until and unless our courts of law adjudicate on this thing, it would not be clear whether the law works or not," Banayo said, referring to RA 6968.

Macasaet said the resulting litigation from their complaint would "prevent future presidents from stepping down before their time."

"We have to protect civil governments from the military," Paredes said.

Olivares mostly exchanged views with Desierto on the implications of the constitutional provision declaring the military as "protectors of the people and the state," which Reyes invoked in announcing at the Edsa Shrine the AFP's breakaway from the Estrada administration.

"You cannot have the military deciding for the people all the time" she said.

The complaint asks that the Ombudsman put Reyes and Villanueva on administrative suspension for at least six months, and that a criminal case be filed against all the respondents before the Sandiganbayan "for the crime of coup d'etat."

Article 134-A of the Revised Penal Code says a coup d'etat is committed when there is "a swift attack accompanied by violence, intimidation, threat, strategy or stealth, directed against duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines . . . or other facilities needed for the exercise and continued possession of power, singly or simultaneously carried out anywhere in the Philippines by any person or persons, belonging to the military . . . with or without civilian support or participation, for the purpose of seizing or diminishing state power."

No surprise

Sen. Edgardo Angara said it was not surprising that Reyes would be thus charged. As for the civilian co-accused, he said they could be held liable under the conspiracy theory.

Angara said it was up to the court to decide whether the filing of the case was timely or belated, and whether it could be prosecuted by civilians.

At a news briefing, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said Reyes in effect declared Estrada as the enemy of the people when he invoked the constitutional provision that "the military is the protector of the people" in justifying his defection.

Biazon said the result of the court proceedings on the case would clarify the meaning of that provision.

Asked if the complainants in this case were merely grandstanding, Biazon pointed out that the complainants were not politicians but journalists.

In Malacañang, Afable said the events of People Power II were essentially the same as People Power I, which booted out the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and installed Aquino in Malacañang.

"There were questions raised after (People Power I) but then these were just overtaken by events," he said.

Afable said the complaint was "an indirect way of questioning the legitimacy of the government."

"But the ultimate objective is really to try to get a judicial decision that this government is not legitimate," he said. "But as I said, that question has been already answered."

Afable noted that "it's so hard to unravel the events" that led to People Power II, and that "this government has already moved forward in so many ways."

He said that even with the filing of the complaint, there was "no reason" for Reyes and Villanueva to go on leave or to be subjected to any disciplinary sanction.

"They are holding their posts in an official capacity and in a lawful capacity," Afable said. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil, Carlito Pablo, Cynthia D. Balana and Stella O. Gonzales***

YOU founder tagged . . .

From page A1

Gutierrez said.

Police yesterday launched a manhunt for Cardeño and four other accomplices of Mostrales.

Cardeño, who has not reported for work since being reassigned from the Land Transportation Office (LTO) to the police office in Western Visayas in October last year, could not be reached for comment.

His reassignment came after he was accused of spreading coup rumors against the Macapagal administration.

"He is believed to be still here in Metro Manila," Gutierrez said, adding that police have already coordinated with immigration and customs authorities to stop him and the other suspects from fleeing the country.

Cardeño's brother said the police had been trying to get his brother since Day 1 of the killing.

"Ever since (the killing), that has been their design, to him pin down," lawyer Reynaldo Cardeño, older brother and counsel of the YOU leader, told defense reporters.

Mostrales, a member of the Guardians Brotherhood Association Inc. and former close-in security aide of deposed President Joseph Estrada, disclosed the identity of the mastermind after a witness identified him as the gunman, officials said.

He was captured in Pangasinan last Saturday. An alleged accomplice, Jaime Centeno, was arrested in Antipolo City on Tuesday night.

The Guardians is a fraternity of military and police officers affiliated with the rightist groups RAM and YOU. After some time, it recruited civilians "from all walks of life," sources said.

Gutierrez said Mostrales' disclosure was backed by pieces of documentary evidence, which he declined to specify.

The police have yet to establish if other "personalities" were involved in the killing of Cervantes. "So far the evidence only points to Cardeño as the mastermind," Gutierrez said.

Strongest motive

A witness close to Cervantes told the INQUIRER early this year that Cardeño had the "strongest motive" to have Cervantes killed.

Cardeño, according to the witness, had blamed Cervantes for his relief as LTO chief operations officer amid allegations of irregularities.

Cervantes had turned over documents on the anomalies at the LTO to Dante Jimenez, chair and president of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, before December last year.

The anomalies, allegedly involving military and police officers, pertained to drug testing for drivers and vehicle insurance.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Pastor "Boy" Saycon, secretary general of the Council for Philippine Affairs, said the arrest of Mostrales showed that military officers had a hand in Cervantes' killing.

THE VICTIM, Baron Alexander Cervantes.

"It points to the Guardians, RAM and YOU. It involves their leaders. This is one big family," Saycon said.

Two angles

He said Mostrales' arrest boosted the theory that Cervantes' killing had something to do with his disclosure of an alleged coup plot against the administration and alleged anomalies at the LTO.

"Those were the only two angles," he said.

Hours before he was shot, Cervantes delivered an intelligence report to Saycon at the latter's residence in Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa City.

The report detailed the alleged destabilization plot and contained the names of the alleged plotters, including retired Gen. Edgardo Abenina and Superintendents Cardeño and Diosdado Valeroso. Cardeño was Abenina's special assistant at the LTO.

Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police, said the PNP was still evaluating Mostrales' offer to turn state witness.

"That's being carefully studied," Espina said.

But retired Col. Romeo Lim, one of the founders of YOU, doubted if the police had arrested the right gunman.

"I don't think they caught the right guy. While I don't have personal knowledge of Cervantes' killing, I have heard rumors that the gunman is not from Luzon. I never tried to do my own investigation because I'm not a policeman," he said in an interview over dzBB.

Lim said he was not certain if Mostrales was a member of RAM. "RAM has thousands of members. You could not identify all of them. I saw him on TV. I doubt if I have seen him once in the RAM headquarters," he said. ***With a report from Martin P. Marfil***

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4 of 10 Pinoys feel unsafe at home

By Martin P. Marfil

THREE out of 10 Filipinos fear walking the streets at night while four out of 10 fear that robbers might break into their homes.

These figures came from Pulse Asia's latest Ulat ng Bayan survey, which probed the public perception on safety at home and streets.

The survey was conducted nationwide on March 22 to April 10 and had 1,200 respondents aged 18 and above.

It had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

According to the press statement issued by the poll firm, the national figure of three out of 10 Filipinos who walk with fear at night was actually an improvement over the December 2001 results of 34 percent.

It also said that fear of robbers breaking into their homes went down from 42 percent in December to 37 percent.

The firm explained that the figures were brought down by residents from rural Luzon, where 71 percent disagreed while only 17 percent agreed when asked if people in their neighborhood are afraid of walking in the streets at night because it was dangerous.

But the story was different in Metro Manila where 35 percent of the respondents fear walking in the streets at night while 50 percent disagreed.

On the question on whether they fear robbers breaking into houses, 40 percent agreed while an equal 40 percent disagreed.

Another 20 percent were undecided.

The figures for Metro Manila, according to Pulse Asia, were practically the same compared with figures in December 2001.

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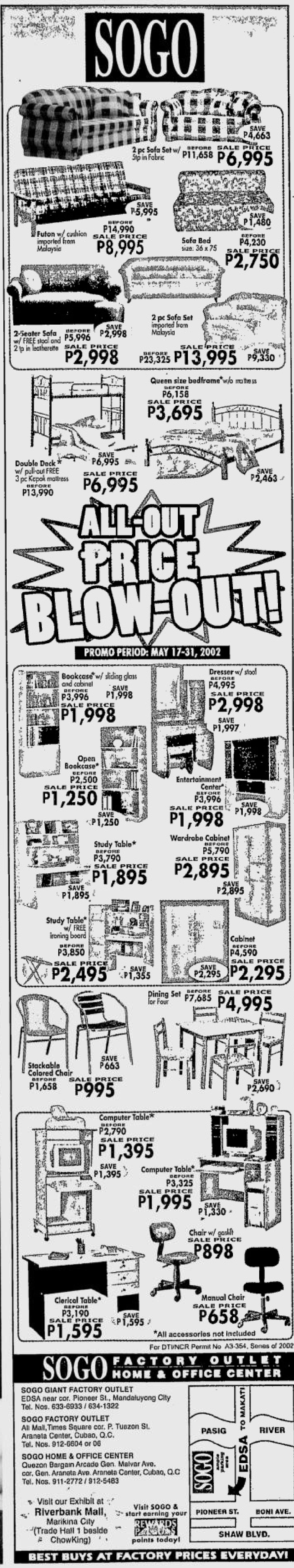
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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

China heads Grand Prix field

CHINA and other heavyweights from Asia will join the Asian Grand Prix—the third and final leg of the tough and prestigious series—on May 26 at the Rizal Memorial track oval. It will be sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and Philippine Sports Commission. "Twenty-one countries mean some 122 athletes. We're in for some sporting treat," said Go Teng Kok, president of the organizing Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association.

Hotdogs win, stay in the running

GAME SUNDAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
5:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Purefoods

By June Navarro

PUREFOODS came back roaring with vengeance and routed Alaska, 80-66, for its first victory in the Finals of the PBA Samsung Governors Cup last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Kelvin Price helped Derrick Brown with the scoring chores while the entire Hotdogs' local crew chipped in their share of the work as the Hotdogs went on to trim the best-of-seven championship series to 1-2.

"We came out strong in the first quarter and just coasted along in the next three. Now, we're back in the series," said Purefoods interim coach Ryan Gregorio.

The Hotdogs poured everything they had in the first quarter as Price and Brown steered them to a 29-18 lead.

Price, who used to average less than 15 points a game, banged in 18 of his 20 points in the first half as the Hotdogs tore the game apart.

Simultaneously, swingman Roger Yap did a superb job in containing Ron Riley, who struggled finding his rhythm all night long.

"With most of the guys like Ronnie (Magsanoc) unhealthy, I challenged Roger to step up and I'm glad that he responded well," said Gregorio, who, at 30, could be the third youngest coach in PBA history to win the title the moment Purefoods turn back Alaska.

Riley, Alaska's primary offensive option who topscored with 43 points during the Aces' double overtime conquest of the Hotdogs, 106-102, in Game 2, was limited to only 12 points, a far cry from his 25-plus average per outing.

The Hotdogs hauled down 12 offensive boards in the first 20 minutes and converted 14 points out of it as they pounded the shaded lane with authority.

With Price imposing his beefy frame inside and Brown hitting his strides, the Hotdogs built a 52-30 spread before the halftime break.

At that time, the Hotdogs also capitalized on the Aces' 13 turnovers as Price, Brown and Rey Evangelista transformed them into baskets.

Scores:

PUREFOODS 80—Brown 21, Price 20, Evangelista 13, Raymundo 10, Yap 10, Yee 6, Patrimonio 2, Victoria 2, Escobar 0, Cantonjos 0, Guerrero 0, Mendiola 0.

ALASKA 66—Head 21, Riley 12, Lastimosa 9, Arigo 6, Wallkvist 6, Noble 5, Allado 4, Santos 3, Gahol 0, Ticzon 0, Reyes 0, Newton 0.

Quarters: 29-18, 52-32, 68-51, 80-66.

Ana Freezers, Blu dispute semifinal slot

TITLE-HUNGRY Ana Freezers clashes with Blu Sun Power with the winner advancing to the semifinals at the end of the PBL Chairman's Cup eliminations today at the Pasig Sports Center.

Only leader Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation (7-3) and ICTSI-La Salle are assured of slots in the five-team semifinals starting next week, making this year's conference the most thrilling in recent memory.

The Ana-Blu tiff is set at 4 p.m., followed by another crucial game featuring Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation and Kutitap Toothpaste.

The PBL was forced to transfer the games to the Pasig Sports Complex due to a concert by rap group Salbakuta tonight at the Makati Coliseum.

Due to the quirks of the quotient system, the PBL resident statistician and liaison officer George Lambojon yesterday told the INQUIRER that the losing team in the Ana-Blue game will be ousted, leaving Shark Energy Drink, John-O and Kutitap fighting for slots.

Here's the complete scenario: Ana, Ateneo with (Blue out, Kutitap fourth, Shark-John O playoff for the fifth and last slot); Ateneo, Blue win (Ana out, Shark fourth, Kutitap-Shark playoff); Ana, Kutitap win (Blue out, Shark-John-O playoff); and Blue, Kutitap (Ana out, Shark-John-O playoff). *Dennis Eroa*

Nets advance

EAST RUTHERFORD— Jason Kidd scored 23 points and made several plays in a decisive fourth quarter Wednesday that gave the New Jersey Nets a 103-95 win over the Charlotte Hornets and their first Eastern Conference finals appearance in 26 NBA seasons.

New Jersey held Charlotte to one field goal in the final 7:37. In winning this best-of-seven series 4-1, the Nets gained each of their victories with tenacious fourth-quarter defense. This foul-marred game was no different.

The game marked the end of the Hornets' 14-year association with Charlotte, with the moving to New Orleans next season.

The Nets, who stunned the NBA by posting the best record in the conference (56-26) just a year after going 26-56, will play the Boston Celtics in the conference final starting here Sunday (Monday in Manila). *AP*

SPORTSWATCH

Jao top favorite

DEFENDING champion Jolet Jao of Shell-YRS Racing Team hopes to stamp his class anew as the 2002 Casino Filipino Grand Prix stages the second leg of the Shell Advance Superbike Series May 18-19 at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Barangay Maligaya , Rosario, Batangas. Seeking a three-peat crown, the multititled Jao eyes another sweep to fortify his hold of solo lead in this event sponsored by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) Board of Governors, Casino Filipino, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phils., MOF Shipping, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro, Kilton Motors Corp., and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through general manager Ver Angelo.

Qualifier shines

MANDAUE CITY—Qualifier Chiemel Mantua of Letran defeated Clemente Cabrera, 6-1, 6-3, on Thursday to reach the second round of the Mandaue Open Men's Championships at the Mandaue Tennis Club court here. The victory sent Mantua up against second seed Adelo Abadia, who outplayed Cliff Acasio, 6-0, 6-2. Top seed Johnny Arcilla breezed past qualifier Janjie Soquino, 6-1, 6-0, to advance against Letran's Von Ruelan, a 7-5, 6-4, winner over qualifier Ian de Guzman.

'D' soccerfest on

KORONADAL CITY—Twelve teams will vie for honors as the first "Double D" Mindanao Football Cup unwraps at 9 a.m. today at the sports complex here. These are Medvil FC of Davao, Iligan, Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga, Lupon, Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Mati, Dipolog City and host South Cotabato. PSC Commissioner William Ramirez will be guest of honor during the opening ceremony.

RACING TIPS

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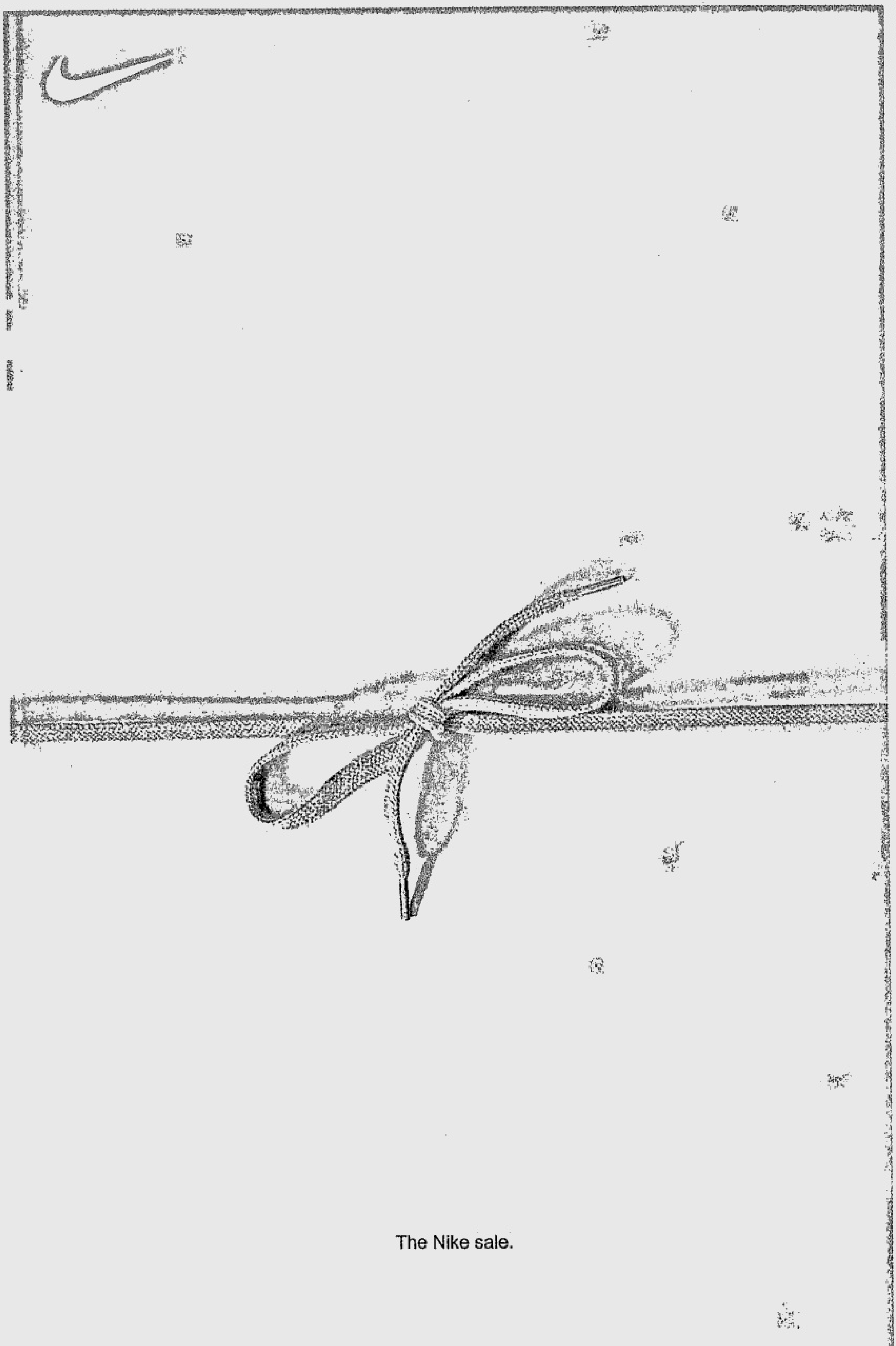
Race 2—1. Native Talent/Southern Skies 2. Sunny Sky 3. Standout 4. Ang Seaman
Race 3—1. Flying Fortress 2. Divine Diva 3. Anahaw 4. Prince of Africa
Race 4—1. Morning After 2. Lady Blaster 3. Star of Arabia 4. Light Hearted 5. Pingas
Race 5—1. St. Emilion 2. Despedida 3. Party Princess/Fortune Maker
Race 6—1. Well Noted 2. Water Girl 3. Stradivarius 4. Speed Charm 5. He's Splendid
Race 7—1. Flirting Hero 2. Gutmoore 3. Queen of Gaia 4. Accurized 5. Free Time
Race 8—1. May's Magic 2. Witch Craft 3. Diamond Buck 4. Ready Aim Fire
Race 9—1. Majestic Ruler 2. Oh Diva 3. Bari Bari 4. Trick Shot 5. Turbo Carera 6. Golden Figure

Manolo Inigo's column will appear tomorrow.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Que tries to duplicate Silverio's mark in Philippine Amateur Golf

QUE

ANGELO Que guns for history when he joins the Philippine Amateur Golf Championship set for May 20-23 at Eagle Ridge.

Que will try to duplicate Golem Silverio's 52-year record of golf's amateur Grand Slam in his farewell performance as an amateur in the event organized by the National Golf Association of the Philippines and backed by DHL Philippines and Wide Wide World Express.

Que is fresh from winning both the Philippine Open low amateur crown at Wack Wack East and the Manila Am at Wack Wack West.

Registration ends today.

Entries, who can hold their practice round today, can either sign up at the NGAP offices (tel. 5256987 or 5245160) or at Eagle Ridge (046-9750055). Entry fee is P1,500.

Only players with handicaps of 9 or below are eligible.

All the top guns of local amateur golf are already in the roster including reigning Southeast Asian Games champion Juvic Pagunsan, DHL stroke play winner Marlon Dizon and jungolf standout Michael Bibat.

GMA okays Parliamentarians golfest

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has signed Memorandum Circular No. 19 enjoining key national government agencies to spearhead and organize an implementation plan for the staging of the First Asian Parliamentarians Golf Cup 2002.

To be hosted by the House of Representatives, the Golf Cup is scheduled from June 8-9 at Wack Wack.

Expected to see action in the Golf Cup backed by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, and supported by the National Golf Association of the Philippines, Heritage Hotel, DHL and Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, are teams from Thailand, Japan, Korea, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Singapore, India and Chinese Taipei.

Flores downs Querubin

LEGAZPI City bet Catherine Flores downed Jin Querubin, 6-0, 6-2, yesterday to lead the girls' 16-under quarterfinals in the Head-Penn Metro Age-Group Tennis Championships at the new Rizal Racket Club in Pasig City.

In other matches, Poveda's Katrina Pamintuan defeated Joan Bibal, 6-3, 7-5; Bukidnon's Arra Micayabas outclassed Anna Buenviaje, 6-0, 6-1; Davao's Patricia Adaza clobbered Angel Ngo, 6-0, 6-2; Floreza Alesna trounced Denise Culaba, 6-1, 6-1; and Jessica Cabisong beat Barbie Escueta, 6-3, 6-0.

In the boys' 18-under class, Lawrence Magaway outplayed Mauric Lao, 6-2, 6-2, and Dino Ferrari defeated Arithmetico Lim, 6-4, 6-2, to reach the quarterfinals.

4-cock derby tomorrow

SOME 50 quality fights await cockfight buffs at the Mandaluyong Coliseum for the special 4-cock derby tomorrow, Saturday.

Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo of Lakpue Drug Inc.

The submission of weights is today, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For other details, call 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341.

To host the event are Ucap matchmakers Goody Lamboloto and Ariel Garovillo. The Mandaluyong Coliseum management announced that entrance fee to this upcoming derby has been pegged at P300 (admission) and P500 (ringside).

Firefly champion

BATTLE-TESTED Firefly Thunderbird 13 of the celebrated Firefly Group stamped its class anew by scoring six wins and a draw to emerge the solo champion in the NCA 7-Cock Derby on Wednesday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Three other entries finished joint second with five points each in the derby hosted by lawyer Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza, Mario Villamor and the National Cockers Association.

These were Fantastic Kalvin of Alan Tan, Ucap International of Vic Yu and Phoenix of derby host Villamor. Two others wound up with 4-1/2 points, namely, BL Laura of Boy Lechon andLouie Cua and R & B Farm I of Rep. Claude Bautista and Bobboy Roa. Tallying four points each and landing in the money were Spencer Winslet of William Co, Cat Stingers of Peping Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco.

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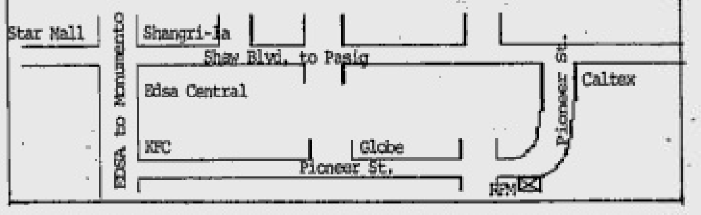

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2nd Prize	John Patrich P.	Simple Kite
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HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION - FLAT KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Alvin Cajulao	Higantang Paru-Paro
2nd Prize	Gimma Cajulao	Bunny's Carrot
3rd Prize	Jeffrey Gerola	Expedition Butterfly
COLLEGE DIVISION - GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Marjo del Rosario	Parrot of the Airwaves
2nd Prize	Richmon Tiglao	Geometric Dragon
3rd Prize	Rey Baron	Aquatic Rainbow
ADULTS DIVISION - GEOMETRIC KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Edgar Cano	Peace on Earth
2nd Prize	Randy Gueco	Isdang Matinik
3rd Prize	Benjamin Cajulao	Abstract
COLLEGE DIVISION - FIGURE KITE CATEGORY		
1st Prize	Salvador Estrada	Wasp
2nd Prize	Anthony Mallari	Toro sa Syudad ng Maynila
3rd Prize	Wilmar Cajulao	Apache Eagle
ADULTS DIVISION - FIGURE KITE CATEGORY		
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2nd Prize	Nestor Fernandez	Pawikan
3rd Prize	Isagani Cajulao	Giant Flying Fish
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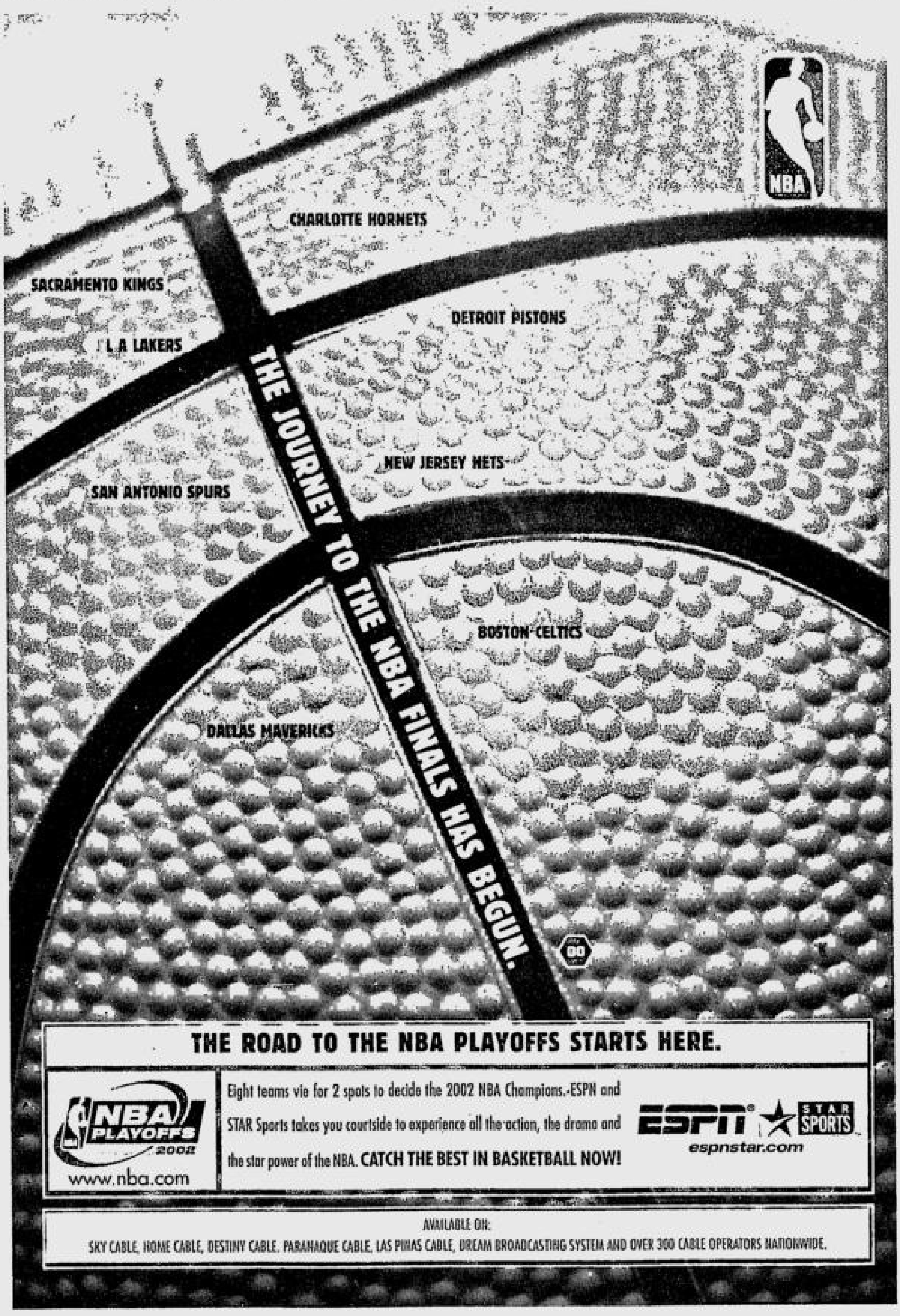

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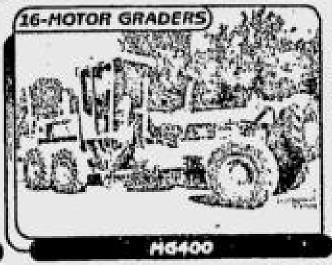
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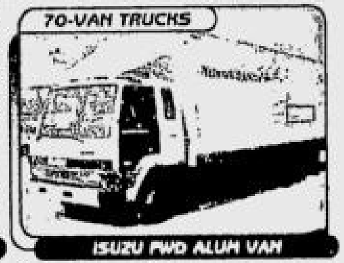
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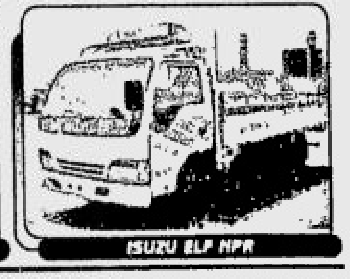
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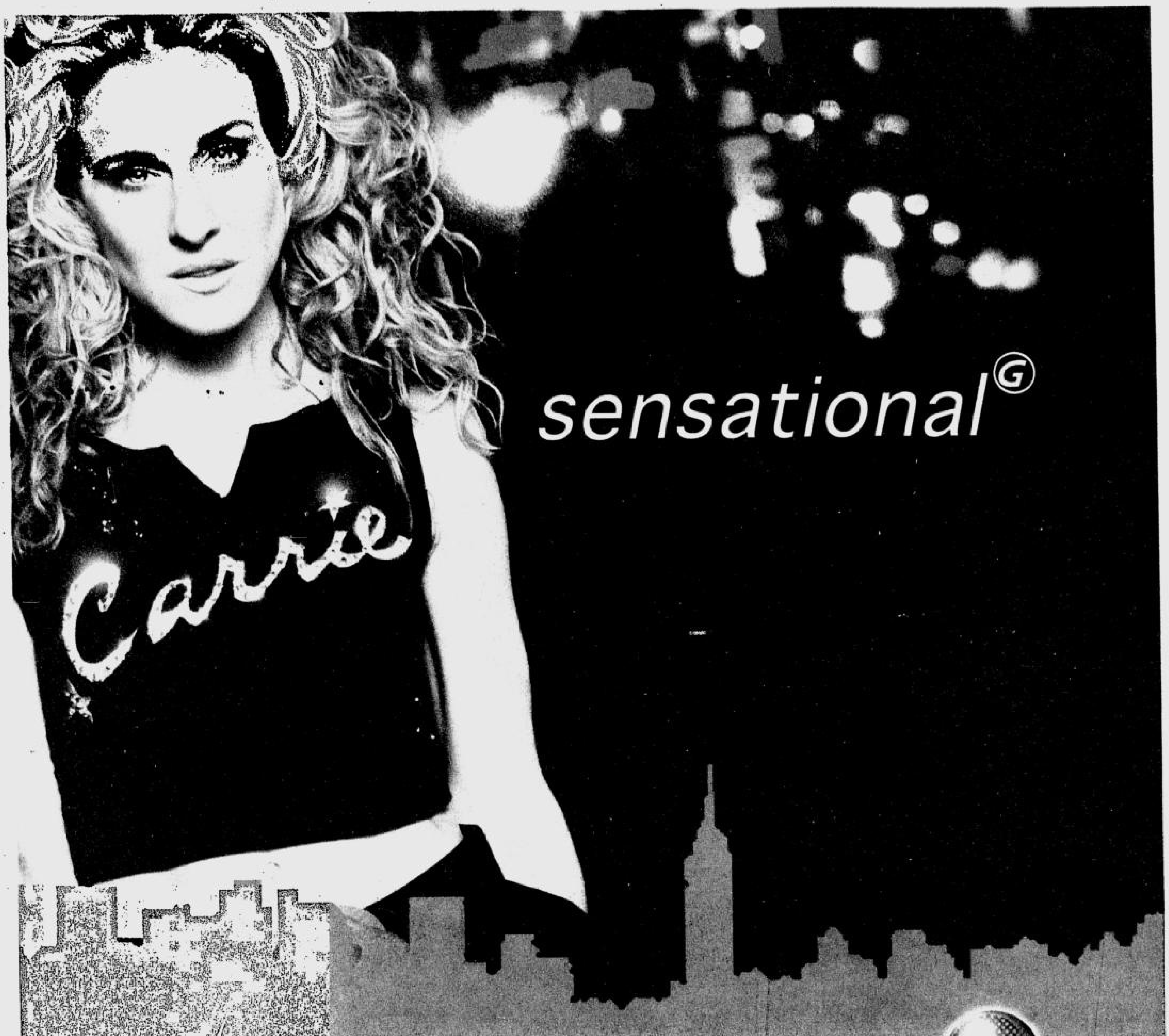

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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Virgin image beheaded

SUSPECTED pranksters on Tuesday took the head of a Virgin Mary statue in the Saints Peter and Paul church in Barangay Poblacion, Makati. Police are ruling out robbery, saying the suspects removed the crown from the statue's head before taking the head itself. The missing head has no real monetary value, police said. *Alcuin Papa, Tarra Quismundo*

Makati fire kills 2 kids

NARLET Mangi, 7 months old, and Jermey Mangi, 2, died in a fire that gutted their house on J. P. Rizal Extension in Guadalupe, Makati City yesterday afternoon. Investigators said the fire started about 2:30 p.m. in the vulcanizing shop on the ground floor of the Mangi residence. *Alcuin Papa*

Syndicate preys on war vets

NBI arrests group's 65-year-old suspected leader

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents arrested the 65-year-old suspected boss of a nationwide syndicate that duped more than 2,000 Filipino veterans of millions of dollars in fraudulent claims submitted to the US Department of Veterans' Affairs.

NBI Deputy Director Fermin Nasol said businessman Eugenio T. Carlos Sr., of Barangay Dila in Bae, Laguna, headed a Luzon-based syndicate that milked World War II veterans and their widows nationwide.

Nasol said the NBI agents seized a cal. .45 pistol, a shotgun, a .357 revolver, and fake documents of veterans' claims in Carlos' house.

US VA regional director Barry M. Barker said that considering that there were records of about 2,000 veterans confiscated from the syndicate's office, "this is probably the largest (syndicate in the Philippines)."

"Millions of dollars were taken from veterans or their widows," said Barker.

NBI Interpol chief Ricardo Diaz said the syndicate had several "agents" who solicited the names of WWII veterans from former "post commanders of veterans' federations" throughout Luzon. These agents would then convince the veterans or their relatives to file

SYNDICATE/ A26

Meralco blamed for 'Weakest Link' death

By Tina Santos

THE FAMILY of the young man who was electrocuted on Wednesday when he tried to get down an electric post in Caloocan City yesterday blamed the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) for his death.

Rosalinda Zapata, mother of Zelig, also denied reports that her son died as a result of a suicide attempt when he touched a live wire as he tried to climb down an electric post.

She said her son had already made up his mind to get down from the utility post when the accident occurred. She said her son died because Meralco personnel were messing with the power transformer attached to the 50-foot post just as Zelig tried to climb down.

"They (Meralco personnel) killed my son," said Rosalinda in Filipino. "Something sparked when Meralco workers tried to cut off the electric current, and it hit my son."

Zelig suffered third degree burns as a result of the jolt. His body was thrown from the utility post and landed on the other side of the road about 10 meters away, witnesses said.

Rosalinda admitted Zelig threatened to kill himself before he climbed up the post.

MERALCO/ A28

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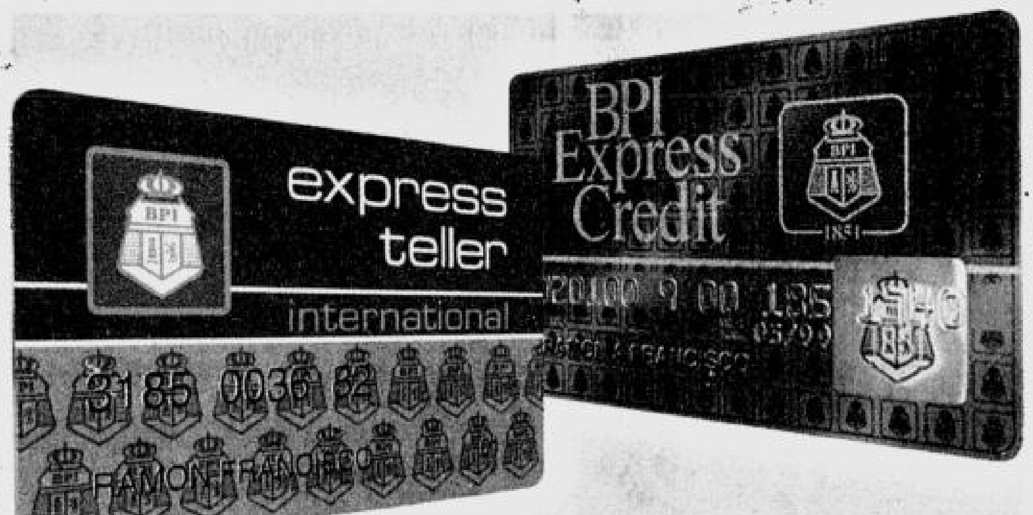

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Palaro 2002: A classic repair job

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

ONE sentence which definitely had no place there found its way in that piece on the Pinoy boxer and the jeepney driver last Wednesday.

It read: "Must as we like to, we can't put up repair shops for badly damaged hereabouts."

How's that? It was not a sentence.

It was both dumb and meaningless.

And I must beg the readers' forgiveness for the discomfort the stray phrase must have caused.

Anyway, in review, I suspect the line was a draft of a dig I had originally intended on the state of boxing in the country.

How it got included in the column proper was hard to explain.

What I had originally wanted to say was this: "Much as we would like to, we can't put up repair shops for badly damaged boxers hereabouts."

I was solely to blame. I was all alone pounding this borrowed laptop.

But I foolishly let my guard down.

I myself played it blind, like those authorities who wantonly issue professional boxing licenses to aspirant pugs who have yet no idea how to properly defend themselves inside the ring.

***

Yes, a repair shop for poor, badly damaged boxers.

Unfortunately, many among our ill-equipped, ill-informed Pinoy boxers are often already beyond redemption, beyond repair by the time they realize they have entered the wrong profession.

A pity. It's often a case of too many punches, in too many nights, in too many rings for many of our fighters.

By the time these poor pugs manage to check on their badly shaken system, they have already been battered bad, pounded simple and silly.

Well, this may not be the case with Education Secretary Raul Roco when he decided to put his foot down and tried to knock out the Palarong Pambansa this year.

When Roco stood pat on his decision to move the staging of the national students' games to next January, it was clear he was partly shaken and maybe blinded by deep sentiments.

***

Roco knew too well that he would be met with stiff opposition.

But insisting he was an organization man, he stood his ground.

I actually sensed a big frustration in Roco when he called up to explain his move to stop the staging of the Palaro scheduled in Naga City next June.

The checks, amounting to over P30 million, were supposed to have been delivered that Friday.

They were delivered on Monday instead.

There was only a slight delay.

Unfortunately, Roco had already written Philippine Sports Commission Chair Eric Buhain a terse memorandum detailing his decision to do away with the Palaro this year.

And knowing Roco, he's not the kind who would renege on his word.

Roco mentioned lack of time and proper preparation as the main reasons for his decision to postpone the games.

***

Predictably, he was swarmed by opposition which ably presented a solid case to back the call for the staging of the twice-postponed Palaro.

At first blush, it was easy to sense that Roco would be overruled.

But he refused to be swayed by the fiery clamor.

After a series of consultations, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, a low-key, keen-eyed achiever, moved in to save the situation.

He advised the President to proceed with the Palaro.

Romulo's recommendation could easily be labeled a classic repair job.

Anyway, the President noted the slight delay but upon being assured by the PSC that Naga can catch up and stage the games smoothly, she gave the go-signal.

The announcement was received with applause and a feeling of great relief.

Said Buhain: "On behalf of the 8,000 student athletes, we would like to thank the President and we promise to give her a good, good show."

Buhain said the President will open the Palaro on June 3.

Roco did not have the last say.

But, as a true gentleman, he is expected to attend the much-awaited affair.

Syndicate ...

(From page A25)

"claims for benefits or an increase in their benefits" and then would demand a P2,000 processing fee, Diaz said.

If the veterans couldn't pay the processing fee, Carlos would ask for 80 percent of the total sum of benefits or 20 percent of the monthly pension the veteran would receive in case the claim was approved, Diaz said.

If the veteran accepted the arrangement, Carlos and his group would prepare fake documents, including false affidavits and fake medical certificates, which they would submit to the Veterans Affairs office.

Carlos was arrested after the NBI received information that he was involved in several illegal veterans' claims and was responsible for fraudulent claims submitted to the US government.

In April, four claimants confirmed to the NBI Carlos' illegal activities, Diaz said. The NBI set up a trap by having one of the complainants continue dealing with the alleged fixer.

Diaz said the complainant initially paid P5,500 to Carlos and set the next payment for May 15 in the suspect's house in Laguna. NBI agents pounced on Carlos when he took the money.

But Carlos denied the charges, saying he was only helping veterans who had no money to pursue their claims. He said many veterans did not even pay him for his services.

Barker said veterans should not pay any "processing fee" when following up their benefits claims. He said veterans could call or visit the VA office at the US Embassy in Manila. Veterans living in Metro Manila may call 528-2500. Those in the provinces may call 1-800-1888-5252, toll-free.

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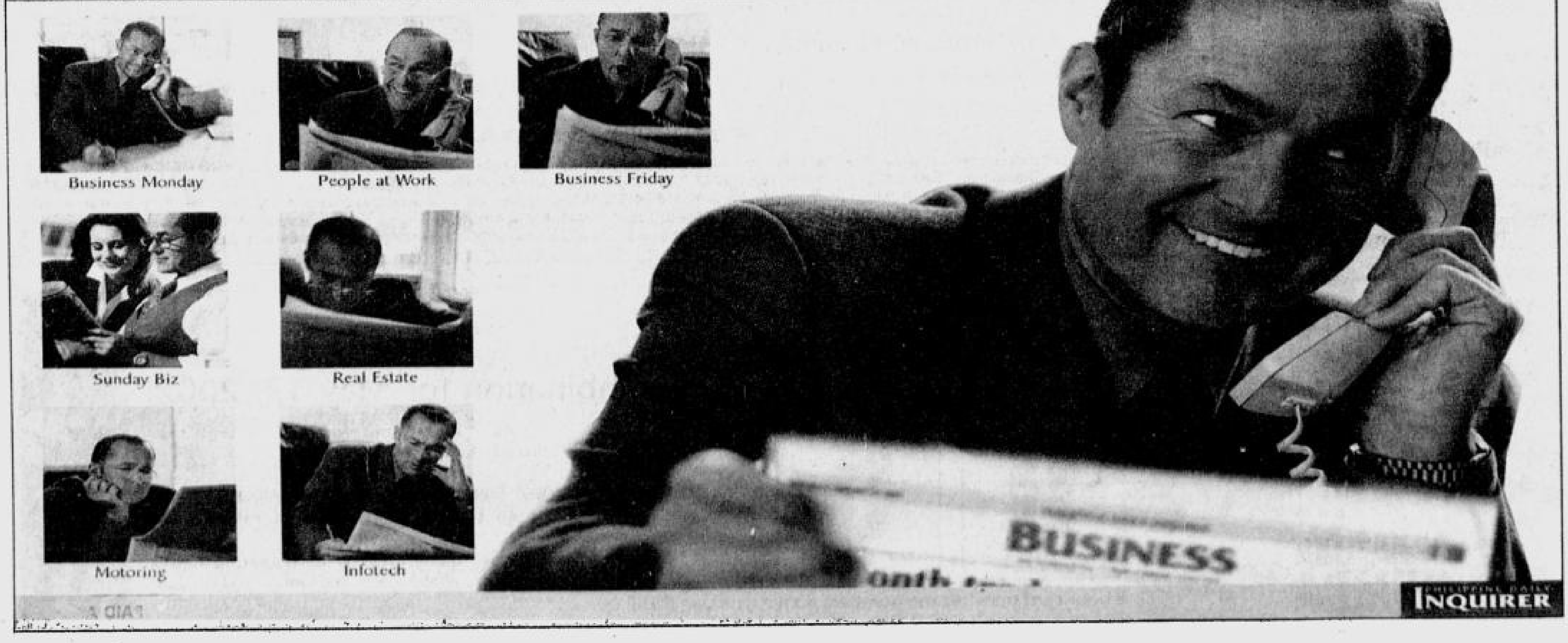

Excerpts from the Secret US$5M Liongson Consulting Agreement with PIATCO

Signed June 22, 2001

TASKS & REMUNERATION

(a) a fixed fee of **Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (USD 200,000.00)** per month ("Base Fee"), which shall be paid by PIATCO on the date falling no later than seven (7) working days after receipt of a duly executed invoice, the report required by Clause 2.2(d) and the information required by Clause 6.2;

(b) to serve as a mobilization fee and down payment, PIATCO shall pay the Consultant a one-time fee of **Two Hundred Thousand US Dollars (USD 200,000.00)** (the "Down Payment") within two (2) working days of the execution of this Agreement.

(c) In addition to the Base Fee, the Consultant shall be entitled to additional payments as set out in (i)-(ix) below based on the achievement of specific milestones (in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to PIATCO):

(i) An amount of **Six Hundred Thousand US Dollars (USD 600,000.00)** shall become due and payable to the consultant within three (3) working days from the date when PTI is approved by DOTC as the contractor-operator of PIATCO for NAIA IPT 3.

(iv) An amount of **Two Hundred Thousand US Dollars (USD 200,000.00)** shall become due and payable to the Consultant within three (3) working days from the execution of the legal, valid and binding ***third supplement*** (re: surface access road connectingT2 and IPT3) to the Concession Agreement between PIATCO and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines in form and substance reasonably satisfactory to PIATCO and the lenders under the Project Financing Agreements.

Source:
Consulting Agreement with Liongson with PIATCO signed June 22, 2001 by Cheng Yong, Bernd Struck, Hans-Arthur Vogel.

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTS AND INVOICES

☐ "We have likewise obtained GRP's consent to PIATCO's designation of Philippine Airport and Ground Services Terminals, Inc. (PTI) as its contractor-operator for NAIA Terminal 3, in accordance with Section 5.15 of the Concession Agreement.

"By letter dated 19 June 2001, GRP, through DOTC, stated that

> "A close perusal of the aforesaid O&M Agreement, more particularly Sections 2.1, 4.7 and 16.1, indeed confirms and assures us that PTI, for the purposes of the O&M Agreement, shall act as a mere agent of PIATCO.
>
> "It is in this light that we hereby formalize and convey our consent as required under our Amended and Restated Concession Agreement for PTI to act as your Contractor-Operator and for you to enter into an O&M Agreement with PTI."

☐ "On 22 June 2001*, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP), through the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), and PIATCO signed and executed the Third Supplement to the Amended and Restated Concession Agreement for the NAIA Terminal 3 Project.

"The **Third Supplement** resolves a long-standing difference of opinion between PIATCO and certain MIAA officials regarding PIATCO's obligation to construct the surface access road connecting NAIA Terminal2 and Terminal 3 at a minimum price of USD 2.5 Million. It clearly states that-

> "As in other project components, the Concessionaire shall not be required to disburse a separate minimum cost for the T2-T3 Road and GRP shall not be entitled to any difference between the Concessionaire' budgetary estimate for the T2-T3 Road and its actual cost.

"The **Third Supplement** incorporates substantially all of the terms requested by PIATCO.

"The terms of the **Third Supplement** are fully consistent with the relevant mandate given by the PIATCO Board of Directors to the PIATCO President."

**Same date as Consulting Agreement.*

Source:
Letter of Liongson to PIATCO dated July 02, 2001.

PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Kindly remit the full invoice amount to HSBC (Bank Code 004)
Account Number 485-6-605763

Source:
Invoice of Liongson dated July 02, 2001

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the power of Liongson over DOTC Sec. Alvarez?

2. How can Alvarez now deny he did not benefit from the Liongson agreement when he told MASO that the PIATCO-DOTC contract cannot be amended when in fact he actually did so quickly in Supplement No. 3? As a matter of fact, a more onerous Supplement No.4 was in process but, fortunately for the GRP, MIAA GM Manda blocked it. DOTC approval of Supplement No. 4 was included in the Liongson Contract with a remuneration of US$50,000.

3. How can the Commission on Appointments confirm DOTC Sec. Alvarez without having fully looked into this matter and heard the witnesses and oppositors?

MIA-NAIA Association of Service Operators

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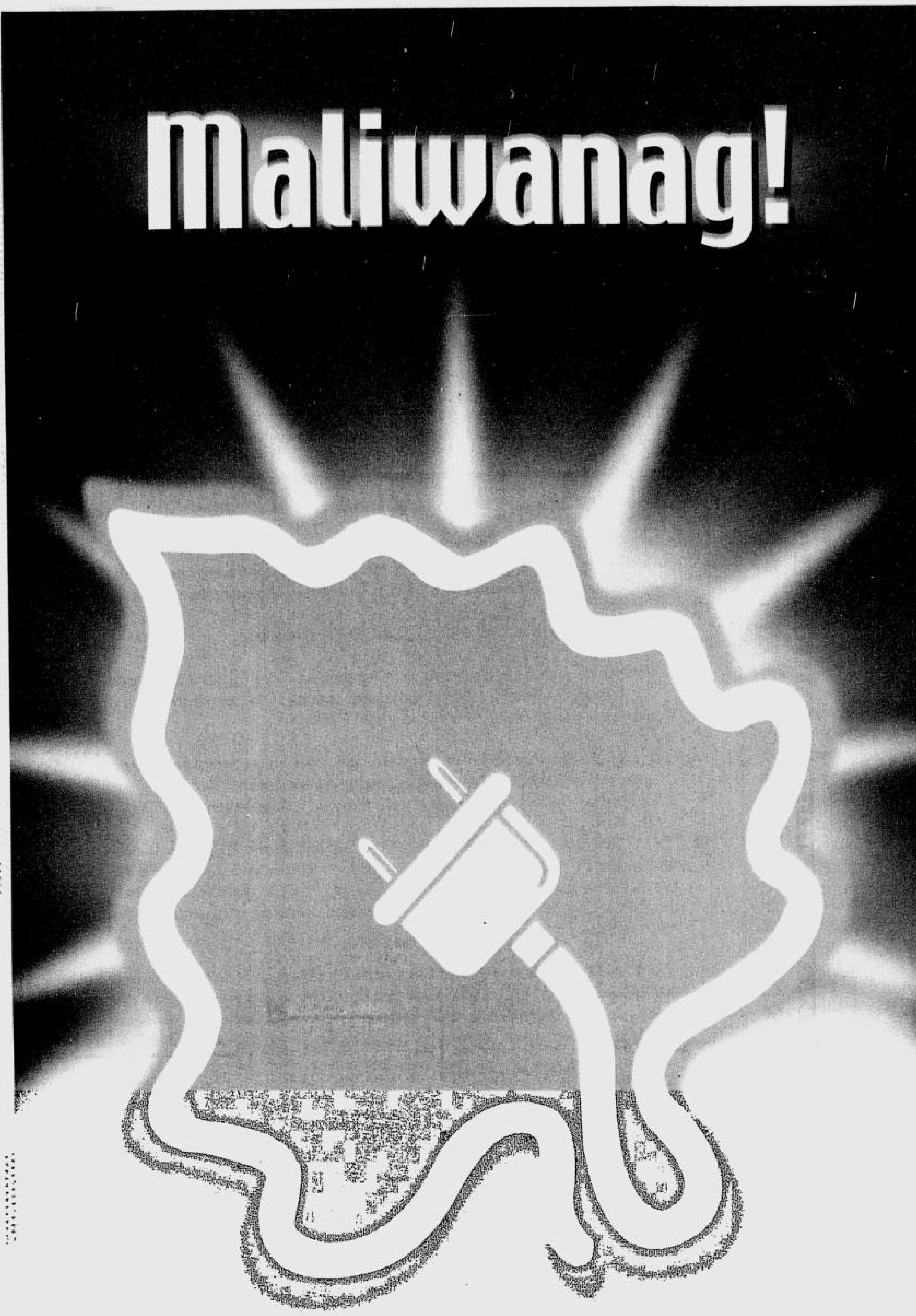

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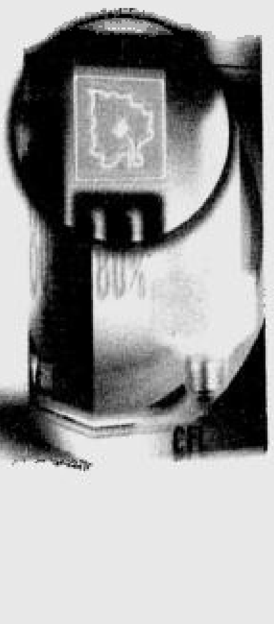

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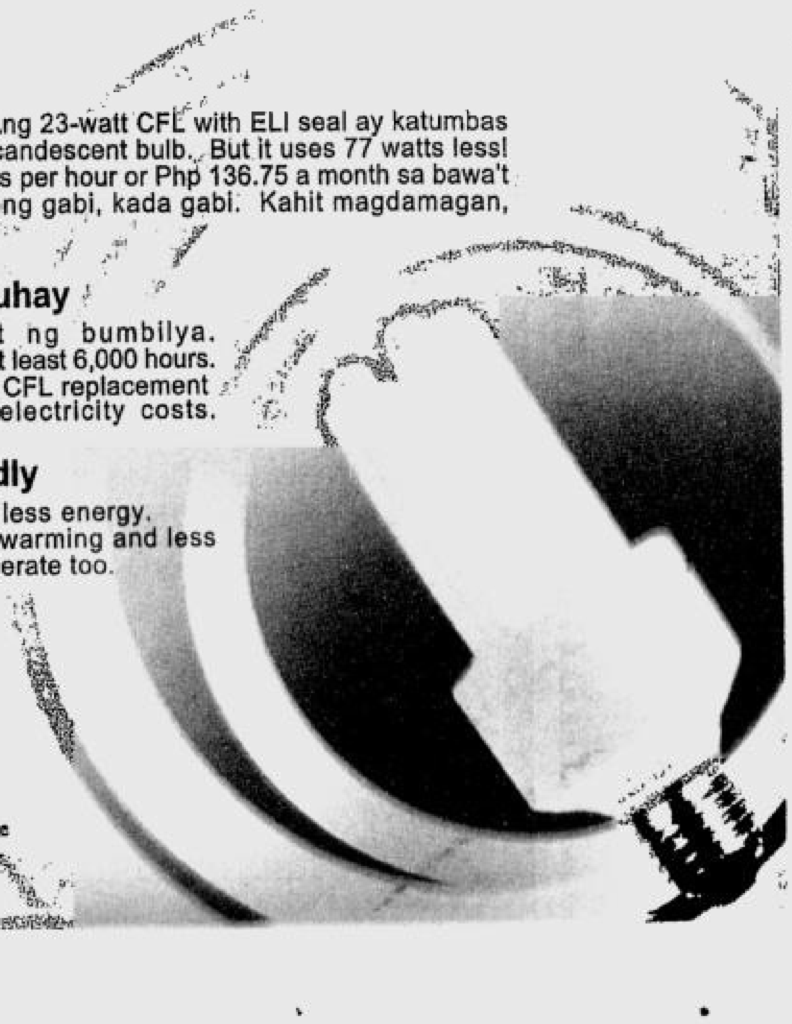

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Probers hold on to Mercado statement

By Alcuin Papa

MAKATI Police have refused to release to reporters the statement of Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado on the death of his live-in partner Raquiel Ambrosio last month.

Reporters learned that Mercado supposedly submitted his statement to authorities on Wednesday, and police are said to have come up with their final report on their investigation of Ambrosio's death.

However, SPO4 Leonardo Timtiman, officer-in-charge of the Makati City Police Homicide Division, said they have not yet secured Mercado's statement.

Ambrosio, 24, was found bleeding from a gunshot wound in the stomach in her bedroom in her condominium unit on the 28th floor of the Peak Tower on Leviste Street in Salcedo Village, Makati City last April 24.

Ambrosio's friends, sisters Irene and Noemi Bartolome, found Ambrosio and brought her to the Makati Medical Center where she died the following day.

Earlier, Makati police cleared Mercado of involvement in Ambrosio's death, which they ruled as suicide.

But the gun Ambrosio allegedly used to shoot herself had been turned over to police only two days after the supposed suicide.

Police later secured videotapes from the close-circuit TV camera outside Ambrosio's unit. The videos showed Mercado leaving the condominium about an hour before Ambrosio was found by the Bartolome sisters, police said.

Mercado, Makati City Chief of Police Supt. Jovito Gutierrez and Criminal Investigation Division head Supt. Jose Salido could not be reached for comment.

On April 25, Mercado released a statement denying that he had anything to do with Ambrosio's death.

The Bartolome sisters told police Ambrosio had called them up and asked them to come to her condo after she had a misunderstanding with the vice mayor.

A statement from Makati City Hall a few days after Ambrosio's death said she was suffering from post-natal blues after giving birth to her son by Mercado three months ago.

Korean dead in hotel

SOUTH Korean Koan Hoan Kim, 36, committed suicide in his hotel room on Wednesday, police said.

Investigators found only P10 in the wallet of the businessman, who allegedly owed huge debts to Korean banks and Filipinos he promised jobs in South Korea.

Kim, who was billeted in Room 223 of the Riviera Mansion on Mabini Street in Ermita, shot himself in the head in his room, said Detective Edgardo Paterno of the Western Police District-homicide section.

Paterno said that Kim had a gunshot wound in the right temple and that the bullet had come out of his left ear. The victim's .38 caliber revolver was found on the floor near his feet, the detective said.

He said the Korean arrived in the country on Feb. 22. On May 3, he and his girlfriend Marilou Morales checked in at the Riviera Mansions.

On Wednesday, Morales tried to call Kim on the phone but he did not answer. Hotel personnel also tried to contact him but there was also no response. Hotel personnel forced open the hotel room and found the victim on the bed.

Philip C. Tubeza and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Man kills partner

A MAN on Wednesday night killed his 35-year-old live-in partner in Las Piñas City, police said.

Hermie Naron stabbed beautician Marilou Villafuerte several times in the body on Everlasting Street in Barangay CAA about 11 p.m. Wednesday, police said.

Villafuerte died at the Las Piñas Doctors Hospital, police said.

Investigators said Naron suspected Villafuerte of having an affair with another man.

Christian V. Esguerra

Meralco . . .

(From page A25)

"But I believe he was just kidding when he went up there," Rosalinda said. "He would have jumped at once if he was serious, but he stayed up there for more than two hours before he agreed to come down."

She said that before Zelig climbed the post, he told his mother "he would prefer to die and end it all than see her and his father go on fighting."

She believed Zelig got tired of hearing her argue with her husband Victorio over money matters.

Rosalinda described her son as a bright and hardworking student. She also admitted that Zelig was fond of watching TV game shows, and his favorite was "The Weakest Link." She claimed that at one time, he was even a contestant on the show.

Rosalinda said she and her husband are still weighing plans on whether to press charges against Meralco.

"We are still studying the matter," she said. "But we will welcome any offer of financial assistance from the power company."

Mauro Sepe, 62

MAURO N. Sepe, 62, died of cancer last May 15.

His body lies at No. 2 Gumamela St., Marulas, Valenzuela.

Interment is at 10 a.m. on May 19 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park in Novaliches, Quezon City.

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11	SCORPION KING
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SM CITY MANILA
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4	STAR WARS
5	SPIDERMAN
6	STAR WARS
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9	SPIDERMAN
10	STAR WARS
11	VIDEOKE KING
12	FRUIT IS SWELLING

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
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2	SPIDERMAN
3	SANA TOTOO NA
4	VIDEOKE KING
5	JASON-X
6	STAR WARS
7	STAR WARS
8	SPIDERMAN
9	CLOSED
10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

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3	STAR WARS
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8	STAR WARS
9	SPIDERMAN
10	FRUIT IS SWELLING

SM CITY CEBU
2313878

1	STAR WARS
2	SPIDERMAN
3	ROLLERBALL
4	GOOD ADVICE
5	VIDEOKE KING
6	BUKANG BIBIG
7	SPIDERMAN
8	STAR WARS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	DEVIL'S MASK
2	CLOSED
3	SPIDERMAN
4	STAR WARS
5	ROLLERBALL
6	STAR WARS
7	CLOSED
8	HARDBALL

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	STAR WARS
2	STAR WARS
3	ROLLERBALL
4	VIDEOKE KING
5	HARDBALL
6	SPIDERMAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	SPIDERMAN
2	STAR WARS
3	STAR WARS
4	VIDEOKE KING

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	STAR WARS
2	STAR WARS
3	SANA TOTOO NA
4	SPIDERMAN

SM CITY DAVAO
2976898

1	STAR WARS
2	ROLLERBALL
3	RIPPER
4	BUKANG BIBIG
5	STAR WARS
6	SPIDERMAN

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM

18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
2	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2

W/ LATE NIGHT SCREENING ON WEEKENDS 6389781-85

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. AI-221 Series of 2002.

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DTS)	STAR WARS
2 (SDDS)	STAR WARS
3 (DTS)	STAR WARS
4 GOLD (DTS)	STAR WARS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
8	VIDEOKE KING
9	HARDBALL
10	STAR WARS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	7 DAYS TO LIVE
3 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	STAR WARS
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1	SANA TOTOO NA
2	STAR WARS
3	SPIDERMAN

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	SPIDERMAN
2	HARDBALL
3	FRUIT IS SWELLING
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
5	SANA TOTOO NA

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	VIDEOKE KING
2	SPIDERMAN
3	STAR WARS
4	SPIDERMAN
5	SANA TOTOO NA
6	
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	STAR WARS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	VIDEOKE KING
2	SHOWTIME

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	HAPDI NG TAG INIT
3	SPIDERMAN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	
A	STAR WARS

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	SPIDERMAN
2	VIDEOKE KING
3	STAR WARS
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
2	
3	
4	JASON-X
5	FRUIT IS SWELLING
6	SANA TOTOO NA
7 (DTS)	STAR WARS
8 (SDDS)	STAR WARS
9 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	SANA TOTOO NA

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	VIDEOKE KING
2	SANA TOTOO NA
3	FRUIT IS SWELLING
4 (SDDS)	STAR WARS
5	STAR WARS
6 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
7 (DTS)	STAR WARS
8	BUKANG BIBIG
9	JASON-X

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2	SANA TOTOO NA
3	RESERVE
4	FRUIT IS SWELLING
5 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
6	STAR WARS
7 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
8	VIDEOKE KING

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	STAR WARS
2	SANA TOTOO NA
3 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
4	VIDEOKE KING
5 (SDDS)	STAR WARS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	STAR WARS

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	SANA TOTOO NA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SANA TOTOO NA
Lords	HAPLOS
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	SPIDERMAN
2	STAR WARS
3	SANA TOTOO NA

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	SPIDERMAN
5	SANA TOTOO NA

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	
2	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	SPIDERMAN
2	STAR WARS

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	SPIDERMAN
2	STAR WARS
3 (DTS)	STAR WARS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SPIDERMAN
2 (DTS)	STAR WARS
3 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
4	JASON-X

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	SPIDERMAN
2 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
3 (DTS)	STAR WARS
4	JASON-X

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	VIDEOKE KING
2	SPIDERMAN
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	VIDEOKE KING
2	SPIDERMAN
3 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
4 (DTS)	STAR WARS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
2	BOYFRIEND KONG PARI
3	SANA TOTOO NA
4 (DTS)	SYOTA NG BAYAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
2	STAR WARS
3 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
4	JASON-X
5	7 DAYS TO LIVE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	SPIDERMAN
2	STAR WARS
3	VIDEOKE KING

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	STAR WARS
2	SPIDERMAN
3	JASON-X

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	BLADE 2
2	VIDEOKE KING
3	IKA-7 GLORYA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	JASON-X
2	
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	STAR WARS
2 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2365

1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BUKANG BIBIG
2	VIDEOKE KING
3	SPIDERMAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	STAR WARS
2	CROSSROAD
3	STAR WARS
4	ROLLERBALL

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	STAR WARS
2	SPIDERMAN
3 (DTS)	STAR WARS
4	ROLLER BALL

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

CMG INTERNATIONAL

[illegible]

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

FESTIVAL CINEMA FILINVEST, ALABANG 850-3571 - 72

STAR WARS
EPISODE II

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS

@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX	STAR WARS 2
2	STAR WARS 2
3	STAR WARS 2
4	STAR WARS 2
5	SPIDERMAN
6	STAR WARS 2
7	SPIDERMAN
8	SANA TOTOO NA
9	JASON-X
10	VIDEOKE KING

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	STAR WARS 2
2	SPIDERMAN
3	JASON-X
4	SANA TOTOO NA
5	VIDEOKE KING
6	STAR WARS 2
7	STAR WARS 2

Metro East -
Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1	JASON-X
2	STAR WARS 2
3	STAR WARS 2
4	SPIDERMAN
5	SPIDERMAN
6	HARDBALL
7	STAR WARS 2
8	SANA TOTOO NA

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	SPIDERMAN
2	SPIDERMAN
3	SANA TOTOO NA
4	STAR WARS 2
5	STAR WARS 2
6	VIDEOKE KING
7	HARD BALL
8	JASON-X

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	STAR WARS 2
2	STAR WARS 2
3	SANA TOTOO NA
4	SPIDERMAN
5	VIDEOKE KING
6	HARDBALL

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	STAR WARS 2
2	ROLLER BALL
3	STAR WARS 2
4	BLADE 2
5	SPIDERMAN
6	RIPPER

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	STAR WARS 2
2	HARDBALL
3	STAR WARS 2
4	ROLLER BALL
5	SPIDERMAN
6	VIDEOKE KING

Star Mills-
Sn. Fernando, Pamp
875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	ROLLER BALL
2	STAR WARS 2
3	STAR WARS 2
4	SPIDERMAN
5	
6	STAR WARS 2

malabon citisquare-
soon to open.

Late Night Screening

STAR WARS
EPISODE II
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how-2-reach-us:

email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

‘Resident Evil’ video game now a movie

TO ADAPT a movie from a novel involves a process of subtraction and consolidation. To make one from a video game is all about expansion, like last year’s "Tomb Raider," which starred Angelina Jolie.

"Resident Evil" is a movie based on a video game that seems inspired by more than a desire to sell tickets to a pre-existing market. The film works within the rules of the game, taking place mainly in a single setting and piling on a relentless barrage of action sequences. But there’s a psychological undercurrent. The movie occupies a zone where science fiction and nightmares collide and intertwine.

Milla Jovovich plays a young lady who wakes up one morning on the floor of her shower remembering nothing about her life. Next thing, hooded commandos are crashing through her windows, including the spunky Michelle Rodriguez.

They take her to their mission in an underground city called "The Hive," to deactivate an all-powerful computer that has just gone homicidal and killed all its employees.

Along the way, the computer throws everything it can at them, including a laser weapon that both slices people and cauterizes wounds, thus eliminating the mess from massacre. There are killer zombies and a generic all-powerful devouring fiend.

The movie also depicts that the science nightmare of the future is a manifestation of that unconscious impulse for self-destruction, loose and invisible throughout the world.

MILLA Jovovich stars in "Resident Evil."

Erratum

THE WINNER of best sound in the Urian Awards last Saturday are Rudy Gonzales and Alex Tomboc for "Batang West Side" and not Adissa Tabong and Alex Tomboc for "La Vida Rosa" as Alex Vergara earlier reported. Our apologies.
—*Ed*

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	VIDEOKE KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SANA TOTOO NA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	FRUIT IS SWELLING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	JASON-X
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	STAR WARS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	EVA / JOYRIDE
ODEON	STAR WARS
ODEON-2	FRUIT IS SWELLING
ROBEN	SANA TOTOO NA
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	FROM HELL / D 'TOX
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	SANA TOTOO NA
REMAR	STAR WARS
REMAR-2	SANA TOTOO NA
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SANA TOTOO NA
B	KAPIRASONG GUBAT . . .
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SANA TOTOO NA
CINEMA-2	BUKANG BIBIG
CINEMA-3	K-PAX
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-6	JASON-X
CINEMA-7	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-8	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-12	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-14	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-15	SPIDERMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-2	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-3	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-4	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-5	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-6	STAR WARS EPISODE 2
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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G1 (GLORIETTA 1)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	GB1 (GREENBELT 1)	ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)
1 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	1 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	4 SPIDERMAN	1 SPIDERMAN	1 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	5 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
3 SPIDERMAN	3 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	6 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	3 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	3 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
4 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2		7 SPIDERMAN	4 Onstage MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE May 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 & June 1	4 SPIDERMAN
				5 SPIDERMAN

The Ayala Events

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI ALABANG CEBU

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MAKATI
May 12 2002
ALABANG
May 12 2002
CEBU
May 17 2002
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THE WAITING IS OVER
AS THE SAGA CONTINUES WITH THE GRANDEST WORLDWIDE OPENING OVER

MTRCB RATING G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

STAR WARS
EPISODE II
ATTACK OF THE CLONES
EWAN McGREGOR NATALIE PORTMAN HAYDEN CHRISTENSEN
IAN McDIARMID SAMUEL L. JACKSON CHRISTOPHER LEE
JOHN WILLIAMS RICK McCALLUM
GEORGE LUCAS JONATHAN HALES
GEORGE LUCAS
LUCASFILM
THX

NOW SHOWING

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MTRCB RATING G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

SPIDER-MAN
MARVEL
sony.com/Spider-Man

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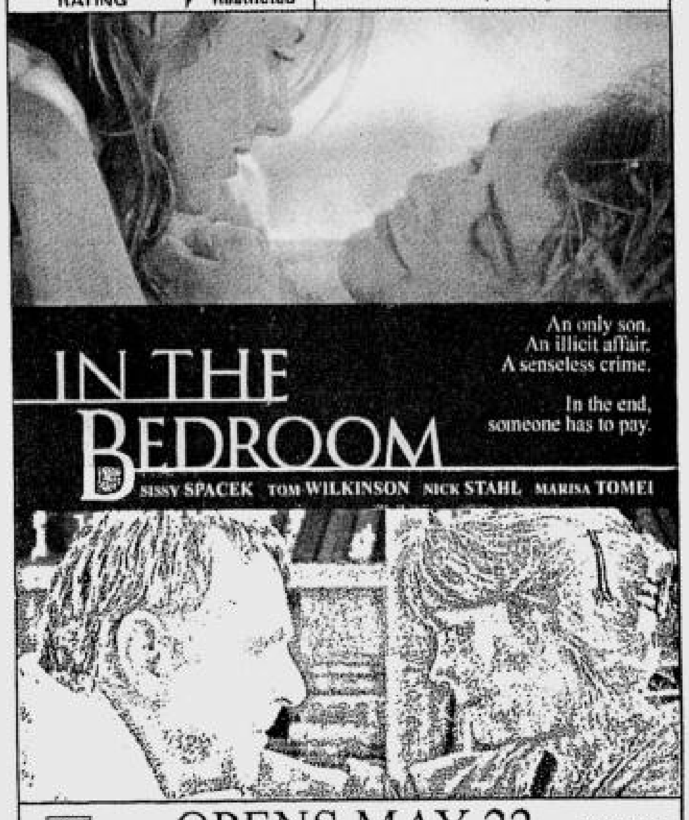
MTRCB RATING R Restricted | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.


An only son.
An illicit affair.
A senseless crime.
In the end, someone has to pay.
IN THE BEDROOM
SISSY SPACEK TOM WILKINSON NICK STAHL MARISA TOMEI

OPENS MAY 22
SKYFILMS

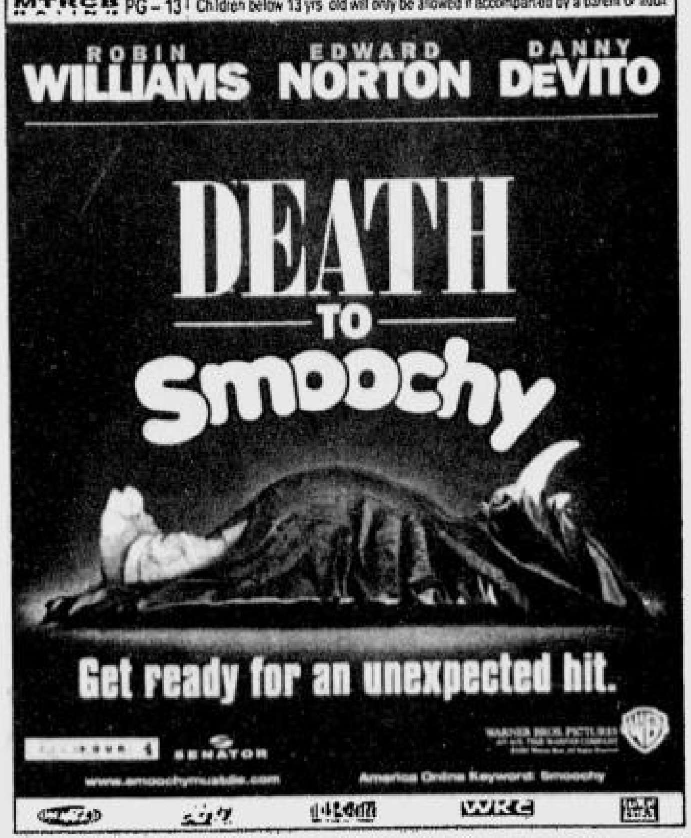
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admited.

RITA MAGDALENA
JOHN ARCILLA
ALLEN DIZON
PYAR MIRASOL
TONTON GUTIERREZ
and
GLYDEL MERCADO
Sana Totoo Na
BERTING LABRA
JACKIE CASTILLEJO
JOSEPH BALTAZAR
Guest Appearances PRECIOUS VALENCIA NICOLE NOBLE IVANA CAPES
Directed by ARMAN REYES, kdpp

OPENS MAY 22 !

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


ROBIN WILLIAMS
EDWARD NORTON
DANNY DEVITO
DEATH TO Smoochy
Get ready for an unexpected hit.
SENATOR
WARNER BROS. PICTURES
America Online Keyword: Smoochy
WRC

Cesar to shoot Hollywood film in Australia, China

CESAR Montano will leave for Australia on June 1 to start filming the Hollywood movie, "The Great Raid," where he will share stellar billing with Benjamin Bratt.

Last Friday, Cesar returned from a two-day trip to Queensland, Australia, where he signed the contract for the film to be produced by Miramax.

Cesar actually inked a three-picture deal with Miramax, which means he will do two more pictures for the production outfit after "The Great Raid."

In Queensland, Cesar also met with American film director John Dahl, who will work at the helm of "The Great Raid."

Cesar was chosen from among 500 actors who auditioned for the role in the war picture. He plays the true-to-life role of Filipino soldier Capt. Juan Pajota, who fought with American soldiers during World War II. Pajota was the leader of the guerilla force who helped Col. Mucci, to be played by Bratt.

Dahl's film credits include "Rounders" with Matt Damon, John Malkovich and Edward Norton, "The Last Seduction" with Bill Pullman and Linda Fiorentino, "Unforgettable" with Ray Liotta" and "Red Rock West" with Nicolas Cage. The most recent was "Joy Ride," shown last year which starred Leelee Sobieski.

Cesar, whose critically acclaimed and award-winning films include "Jose Rizal," "Muro-Ami" and "Bagong Buwan," went through a process of three auditions before he was called on for the role in "The Great Raid." He sent a DVD of "Muro-Ami," with English subtitles, which became the basis of Dahl to give him the Pajota character. Cesar bested even Hollywood actor Lou Diamond Philips for the role.

Other Filipino actors who auditioned were Tirso Cruz III, Ricky Davao, Raymond Bagatsing and Jomari Yllana.

For his third and last audition, Cesar said he was made to memorize a three-page English script.

"I had to psyche myself before I went to Australia," he said. "I told myself, I memorized Spanish lines for 'Rizal,' so I could easily memorize the English script."

Another Filipino character in "The Great Raid" is that of a female prostitute, but the role was given to a Fil-Am actress based in Los Angeles.

Cesar said other Hollywood actors being eyed to play lead roles in the movie include Ethan Hawke, Joaquin Phoenix and Michelle Pfeiffer.

"It's everybody's dream to make it in Hollywood," Cesar said. "For me, I still find it unbelievable that I got the role. And if this is only a dream, I don't want to wake up."

Benjamin Bratt, who was a former boyfriend of Julia Roberts, was a mainstay of the TV series, "Law and Order." His films include "The Next Best Thing" with Madonna and Rupert Everett, "Miss Congeniality" with Sandra Bullock, "After the Storm" with Armand Assante, "Red Planet" and "Abandoned."

"The Great Raid" is a $90 million production of Miramax Films. Aside from Queensland, filming will also take place in Goldcoast, Australia, and Shanghai, China, until October. But Cesar is expected to be back to the country last week of June to start his movie with Rufa Mae Quinto and Bayani Agbayani. *Leah Salterio*

MONTANO. To play a guerilla leader in John Dahl's "The Great Raid."

'Miracle worker' for show biz stars

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

HE'S NOT called the "miracle worker" for nothing. As a doctor who specializes in weight management or bariatric medicine, **Joel Mendez** has done wonders on the shapes of top show biz personalities such as **Ara Mina, Judy Ann Santos, Kris Aquino, Claudine Barretto, Janice de Belen** and **Alice Dixson** among others.

His weight loss program is for those who have a fast-paced lifestyle. He can end one's battle with unwanted flabs and help you achieve a whistle-bait figure without the need for exercise, dieting, fasting or surgery.

"You don't even have to skip meals otherwise you can suffer from hypoglycemia or low sugar level," Dr. Mendez says.

Schooled in Maryland, Dr. Mendez trained with his elder brother **Oscar**, who also has his own weigh less center in Baltimore.

The program is based on prescribed medicines for appetite suppressant which, Dr. Mendez claims, are all approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs in the United States and is known to be safe for people to use.

"Even those with hypertension, diabetes or high cholesterol level can take the pills," Dr. Mendez says. "The typical effect is insomnia. You can also experience perspiring and dryness in the mouth or throat, but you can easily drink water."

Dr. Mendez charges P2,000 per pound lost, with a P5,000 enrollment fee. Nine out of his ten patients are women who include other celebrities such as **Lani Misalucha**, comebacking actress **Shyr Valdez**, comedienne **Candy Pangilinan**, singer-actress **Jessa Zaragoza** and husband **Dingdong Avanzado**, TV host **Arnel Ignacio**, newscasters **Ricky Kwek** and **Cherry Mercado**, teen star **Paula Peralejo**, actresses **Marjorie Barretto** and **Beth Tamayo**, and singer-turned-politician **Imelda Papin**.

Dr. Mendez's Weigh Less Center main clinic along Roces Avenue in Quezon City (tel. nos. 371-8886 to 87) also has a massage room, steam room, derma room, dental room and soon, a parlor.

"I want it to be a one-stop shop for my clients," Dr. Mendez says.

The center offers a wide range of services which include anti-aging treatment, rhinoplasty, facelift, foot scrub, body scrub, body wrap, waxing, eyebag removal, tummy tuck, tattoo removal and breast augmentation.

Aside from his main clinic, Dr. Mendez also holds consultations in other Weigh Less Center branches like Binondo, Alabang, Makati (Glorietta and Greenbelt), Mindanao Avenue and at Clinica Manila at SM Megamall.

He also goes to Pampanga, Dagupan, Cebu and Davao every month to visit his provincial branches.

But apart from his medical profession, Dr. Mendez is also an artist who has been painting for the last 10 years. In fact, on May 26, he will hold an exhibit of his celebrity portrait paintings at the 4/F Arts Center of SM Megamall.

DR. Joel C. Mendez with celebrity client Shyr Valdez.

Good girl Glydel

GLYDEL Mercado has been having jitters with her latest movie, "Sana Totoo Na," opposite real-life sweetheart **Tonton Gutierrez** under World Arts Cinema.

Glydel has been praying that the fans will support her solo starrer, even if she has been hailed as the newest *contravida* on the boob tube, in the ABS-CBN soap series, "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan."

TV audiences despise Glydel in her new TV role, but the sexy actress is optimistic that the public will patronize her in a good girl role on the big screen.

"I'm sure the audience knows that's not the real me on TV and it's just a characterization," Glydel says. "I'm not really bad in real life."

"Sana Totoo Na" also stars **John Arcilla** and **Pyar Mirasol. Arman Reyes** directs.

Why 'Spider-Man' is such a big winner

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

EVEN before "Spider-Man" opened last week, veteran Hollywood observers were already predicting that it would threaten the box-office records set last year by "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"—$33.5 M for a single day, and $75 M in three days.

It turns out that the clairvoyants of cinema erred—on the side of caution. "Spider-Man" didn't only threaten "Harry Potter's" achievement, it broke its record by making a whopping $43.7 M on its opening day, and $114 M in three days.

This is a spectacular achievement, particularly when you learn that "Harry Potter" played in more North America theaters (8,100) than "Spider-Man" (7,500).

The new record-holder set a new box-office standard in the Philippines as well, earning P15.4 on its opening day, bumping off the previous record established by "Godzilla" (P11 M). In contrast, local movies are guarded as hits when they make P5 M in one day.

Why is everybody going ga-ga over "Spider-Man?"

Early predictions of its super-success cited its "massive promotional campaign, built-in fan base of comic-book devotees, mix of action and romance, and its PG-13 rating."

Now that the movie has been doing even better than expected, other plus points are emerging. The biggest additional draw is the film's "teen-friendly" look, since its hero starts out as a high school senior.

On top of that, he's initially depicted as a loser, so his transformation into a masked superhero gives viewers a lot to empathically root for. If **Tobey Maguire**'s character in the movie had been presented as a confident young comer, all those insecure and geeky teens out there wouldn't have had anybody to empathize with.

And the key element is, they can empathize not only with his insecurities, but also with his magical transformation into the super-crimefighter admired and even adored by everyone.

It's a fantasy transformation, of course, but insecure teenagers are only too willing to suspend their disbelief for the duration of the movie's running time. In the light of their other, more complex concerns, that's easy!

Another appealing element in the film, especially for local moviegoers, is its melodramatic content. Viewers here are hung up on TV soap operas and their melodramatic characters, situations, and twists and turns, so the fact that the movie's protagonist comes from the other side of the tracks and is bullied by everyone is right up their alley.

Also, his uncle and guardian dies in the middle of the movie, so viewers' hearts go out to Tobey Maguire's character.

Finally, will "Spider-Man" do spectacularly well on the long term? Will it eventually beat the mega-record set by "Titanic" as the most profitable movie ever made?

For all of its short-term popularity, "Harry Potter" has made "only" $450 M to date, a far cry from "Titanic's" $1 B-plus take in theaters worldwide. Will "Spider-Man" prove to have stronger "legs" for the long-distance race ahead?

Dual role

RUFA Mae Quinto tackles a dual role in "Super B"—Bi, a girl whose family owns a *carinderia* on wheels, and Super B, her superheroine counterpart.

Super B keeps the city safe from criminals and the Flower Pot Girls, evil women played by **Melanie Marquez** and **Mylene Dizon**.

Other stars include **Marvin Agustin** as Bi's persistent suitor, **Troy Montero** and **Aiza Marquez**. The film is directed by **Joyce Bernal**.

Sizzling season

RX93.1 partied till dawn recently at Seven Suites, Antipolo, for the station's annual summer cookout, this year titled "Cosmic Cookout." Music was provided by Parokya ni Edgar, Rivermaya, Moonstar 88, Cheese, Imago, Itchyworms, Mojo Fly, Milk and Money, Lilian, Bent and Soul Machine.

"Cosmic Cookout" is only one of the sizzling events this season on Monster Radio RX93.1. Listeners can look forward to other lively parties like Yuppie Race Nights at Culture Club, the RX Swim Party at Eight Waves, the RX Sportsfest, the RX Concert Series at SM City featuring Moonstar 88, and the Monster Movie Premiere of the new **Jodie Foster** starrer, "The Panic Room."

Sandwiches . . .

From page A32

block after my shower and before I step out of the bathroom.

I like Origins Silent Treatment Instant UV Face Protector which I combine with Clarins Energizing Morning cream. These two products are great because they don't interfere with the application of foundation or face powder.

I've desperately wanted to get a healthy looking tan on the beach, but I've realized that what may make you look like you're in the pink of health can actually be very damaging to your skin.

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STAR WARS - GP 12:20, 3:15, 6:10, 9:05, 11:55	SPIDERMAN - GP 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	STAR WARS - GP 11:45, 2:40,, 5:35, 8:30, 11:25

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Sandwiches, shampoos, sunblock

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I'VE been cooped up inside ABS CBN's studios for five of the past six days. Thank God there's Cibo within the compound.

I love Cibo's fresh lemonade with mint and its freshly squeezed orange juice. I've been trying my best to stay away from softdrinks, even diet softdrinks, because I'm in an all-natural phase. Cibo juices aren't overly sweetened and they're so refreshing.

Zsa Zsa Padilla came over and stayed with me for almost my entire taping last week and we really enjoyed the Insalata Pacifica salad with balsamic vinegar dressing, heart of palm and slivers of parmesan cheese. I had the summer squash soup with pancetta, which fills me up and helps keep me going during the entire night. Zsa Zsa and I encourage each other to stick to our diets and so we just had soup and salad for dinner.

Earlier last Wednesday, because I again lost my voice, I decided to treat myself to a Philadelphia cheese steak hot hero sandwich from Napoli Pizzeria Ristorante, located in Mother Lily's Century Imperial Suites at Timog Circle. This is my favorite steak sandwich because the meat is always fresh, tender and tasty, the bread is firm and chewy, and Napoli obliges me by removing the onions and giving me lots of green pepper which I love. This hot hero is very filling. **Bambbi Fuentes** and I split the sandwich and we were more than satisfied.

Thoughtful gifts

JOHN Lapus just came home from Hong Kong where he was a guest in **Sharon Cuneta**'s mega-successful concert at the Hong Kong Coliseum (Sharon packed the 12,000 capacity venue to the rafters). John is one of my dearest friends, and I'm really proud of how far he has gone. **Josh** adores him and he always manages to surprise both of us with his thoughtful gifts and of course his entertaining company.

John knows how obsessive I can be about shampoos and so he brought me home my favorite Pantene Clarifying Shampoo. This isn't locally available yet, but I hope they'll start distributing it here soon. Women like me who, because of current hairstyling trends, have to use wax, silicone drops and hairspray to achieve our tousled, broken cut looks, really need a shampoo that can remove hair product build-up which can make our hair appear dull and lifeless. **Pin Antonio** and Bambbi Fuentes remind me to use a clarifying shampoo at least every five days.

Of products that are locally available, I'm currently in love with Dove's body wash. I remember that I used to hoard this every time I shopped in Hong Kong. Because I shower up to three times a day, my skin really has a tendency to dry up. Dove suits me because it has built-in moisturizing cream.

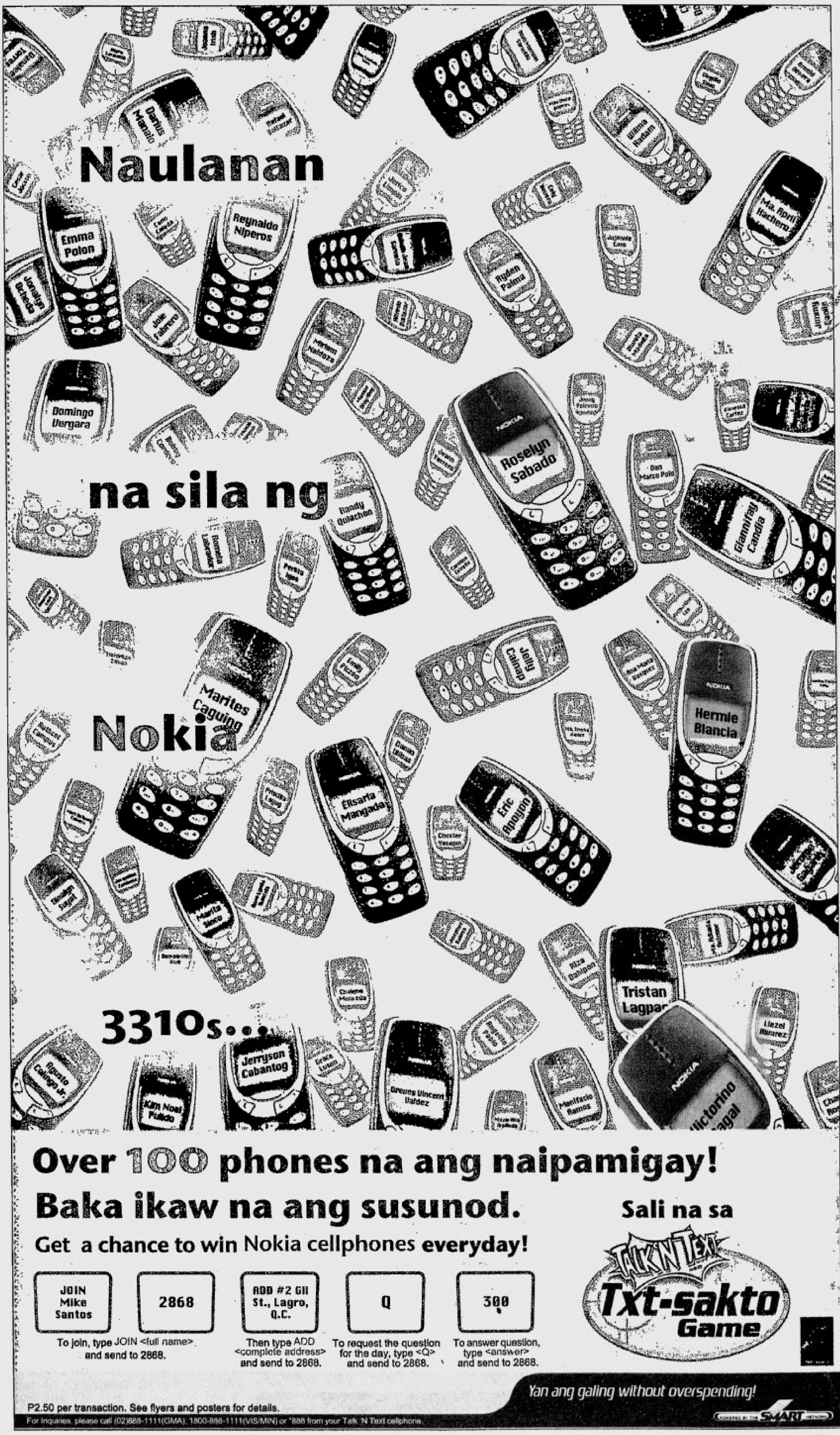
Unilever is finally distributing it here and it's exactly the same quality and consistency as my favorite Hong Kong version. The only difference is the packaging. The bottle, instead of being a horizontal oblong, is now a vertical oblong.

Good sunblock

POPS Fernandez, during our "Cinema One Persona" interview, said that if she was particular about any beauty ritual, it was the use of a good sunblock. She makes sure to thoroughly clean her face of all make-up and she also always puts on a moisturizer.

I've noticed that ever since I passed the age of 30, any little sun exposure or a prolonged stay under the powerful studio lights would invariably result in freckles appearing on my face. For fear that this would lead to "age spots," I'm now slathering on sun-

SANDWICHES/ A31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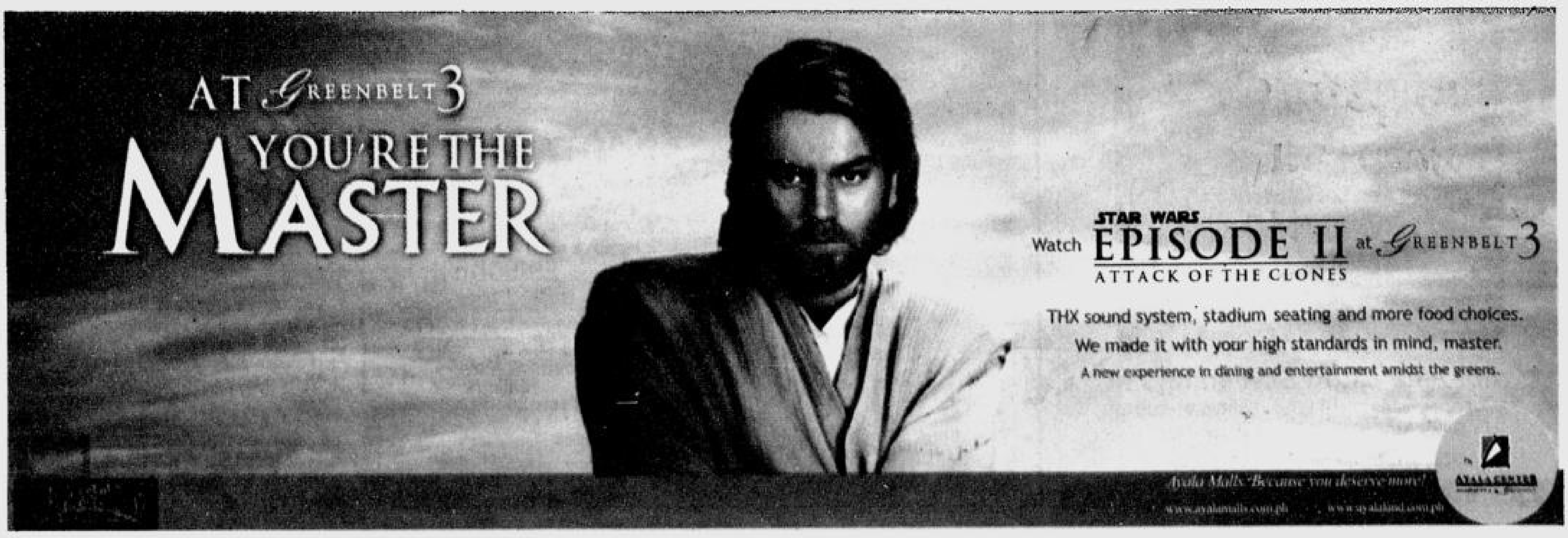
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BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◆ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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Ilijan power plant seen running in June

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said the consortium building the 1,200-megawatt Ilijan power plant was expected to compensate the state-owned National Power Corp. for the delay in the plant's commercial operation.

"I believe Napocor and Kepco-Ilijan Power Corp. have agreed on a compromise," Perez said in an interview.

But the official declined to give details, adding that the two parties would firm up a resolution within the month.

"We are confident that, with these developments, Ilijan will start commercial operations by the first week of June," Perez said.

The gas-fired Ilijan plant was supposed to have started running commercially in January but "technical problems with the plant's turbines" prevented this.

Perez said no fines were expected to be slapped on the contractor, saying the settlement of the damages was between Napocor and Kepco.

Energy officials said earlier that delay in the operation of the Ilijan facility cost $400,000 a day in fines.

The government in 1997 awarded the contract to build the Ilijan plant to the Korean Electric Power Corp., which in turn invited other firms to take part in the project.

Kepco holds a 51-percent stake in the project that cost at least $700 million. The other firms included Mitsubishi Corp., Mirant Corp. and Kyushu Electric Power Corp.

The consortium hired the group of United Engineers International Inc., Raytheon-Ebasco Overseas Ltd. and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to build the plant.

The Ilijan facility is the biggest of three facilities in Batangas that will use natural gas from the Malampaya field in offshore Palawan.

The other two are the 1,000-mw Sta. Rita plant and the 500-mw San Lorenzo plant, both owned by First Gas Power Corp. of the Lopez family.

First Gas is also planning to build a 600-mw plant in Sucat that will use natural gas, which will tap a 100-kilometer pipeline to bring the gas from Tabangao in Batangas to Metro Manila.

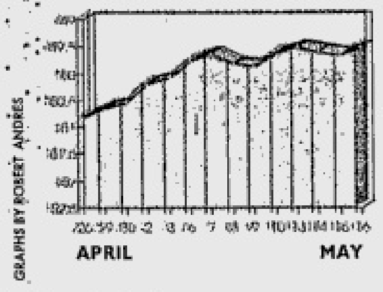
The pipeline is expected to help develop a wider market for other uses of natural gas other than power generation.

First Gas officials said earlier that the use of the Malampaya gas could extend to vehicles, buildings and households.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 49.52 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 16, 2002

¥ 127.45 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 16, 2002

GOLD: $309.30/309.87
per ounce Hong Kong, May 16, 2002

May 16, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.096371	1.000000	49.6220
Japan	Yen	0.008590	0.007835	0.3888
United Kingdom	Pound	1.601031	1.460300	72.4630
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140580	0.128223	6.3627
Switzerland	Franc	0.685874	0.625586	31.0428
Canada	Dollar	0.704382	0.642467	31.8805
Singapore	Dollar	0.608081	0.554631	27.5219
Australia	Dollar	0.601740	0.548847	27.2349
Bahrain	Dinar	2.908301	2.652661	131.6303
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.292366	0.266667	13.2325
Brunei	Dollar	0.604728	0.551572	27.3701
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000118	0.000108	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.025581	0.023332	1.1578
UAE	Dirham	0.298511	0.272272	13.5107
Korea	Won	0.000865	0.000789	0.0392
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.912100	45.2602
Brazil	Real	0.440151	0.400000	19.8488
Denmark	Kroner	0.133494	0.122647	6.0860
India	Rupee	0.022638	0.020433	1.0139
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.291465	0.263158	13.0584
Mexico	New Peso	0.116816	0.105736	5.2468
New Zealand	Dollar	0.503991	0.458610	22.7571
Norway	Kroner	0.132382	0.120828	5.9957
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018473	0.016681	0.8277
South Africa	Rand	0.109430	0.098010	4.8635
Sweden	Kroner	0.108156	0.098732	4.8993
Syria	Pound	0.025341	0.022883	1.1355
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032117	0.029011	1.4396
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001107	0.000995	0.0494

Smart boosts PLDT profit to ₱1.3B in 1st quarter

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the country's dominant phone firm, said yesterday its first-quarter net income more than doubled to P1.3 billion due to the strong performance of its mobile phone unit.

"Growth was driven largely by the strong performance of Smart (Telecommunications Inc.), which continued to experience robust subscriber take-up as well as significant growth in revenues, Ebitda and net income," PLDT, a unit of Hong Kong's First Pacific Co., said in a statement.

Net income rose 107 percent in the first three months of 2002 from P628.9 million a year ago.

PLDT also maintained its dominance of the fixed line sector with 2.1 million subscribers or almost 70 percent of the market, the company said.

Company president Manuel Pangilinan said the strong performance in the first quarter of the year "sets the tone for the PLDT group's full-year results," although he did not give any forecasts.

Diversification from being mainly a fixed line telephone company into mobile communications and data and network services had boosted PLDT's prospects for this year.

"Our strong first quarter performance confirms that the strategy to diversify PLDT's business, to control our expenses and manage our capital expenditures while continuing to raise revenues were steps in the right direction," Pangilinan added.

"Additional revenues are expected from other subsidiaries in the near-term," the statement said without giving details.

"I think P1.3 billion (profit in the first quarter) is spot on with the consensus estimate," said ATR Kim Eng Securities telecom analyst Martin Enrile. "Annualizing it, it puts it at about P5.2 billion for the full year."

The consensus 2002 net profit forecast for PLDT in the Multex Global Estimates Directory is P4.32 billion with earnings per share of P24.9.

But Pangilinan said in February earnings should exceed growth forecasts of 58 percent for 2002.

Consolidated revenues grew to P19.08 billion from P18.04 billion, while Ebitda (earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortization) rose to P10.75 billion from P9.87 billion.

Smart posted a net income increase of 35 percent to P1.1 billion from P837 million a year ago. Its revenues grew 41 percent to P7.5 billion and Ebitda rose to P3.9 billion from P2.5 billion.

In the full year 2001, PLDT reported net profit of P3.41 billion. Smart contributed some 34 percent of revenues. *Reuters, AFP*

STOCK MARKET

Shares fall slightly on lack of leads

SHARE prices dipped 0.1 percent yesterday due to a lack of strong leads, analysts said.

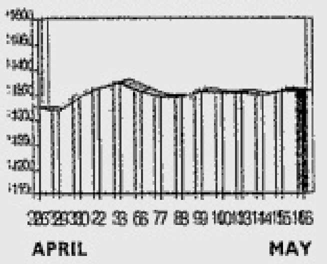
The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 1.92 points to close at 1,355.74.

"The market's consolidation continues and some investors are apparently waiting for new leads," said Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development Corp.

"The market is holding right now above the critical support at 1,337. If we manage to hold there and break 1,380 in the next few days, then we may see a strong market eventually," said Mark Securities Corp. chief strategist Manny Cruz said.

Volume fell to 273.5 million shares but value rose to P799.2 million from 275.2 million shares worth P554.3 million on Wednesday. *AFP*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Firm eyes Mindoro leisure project

PROPERTY firm Jolliville Holdings Corp., which will list on the Philippine Stock Exchange next month, plans to expand into the leisure and resort business using its landbank in Calapan City and Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro.

In an interview yesterday after the signing of the purchase agreement with the PSE, Jolliville founder, chair and chief executive officer Jolly Ting told reporters that the company would raise more funds from the market in order to invest in leisure development over the next three to five years.

Unlike other leisure estate developers, however, Ting said Jolliville would not focus solely on the high-end market but instead cater to a mixed market segment. He said the company had about 80 hectares of landbank, including beachfront properties, in Mindoro.

"The company looks at the leisure and resort development as an area of future growth for the company and the group. Because of its presence in Calapan and Oriental Mindoro, it is particularly bullish on the tourism prospect of these areas specially because of the industrial development of the neighboring Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Quezon) area," the company said in its prospectus.

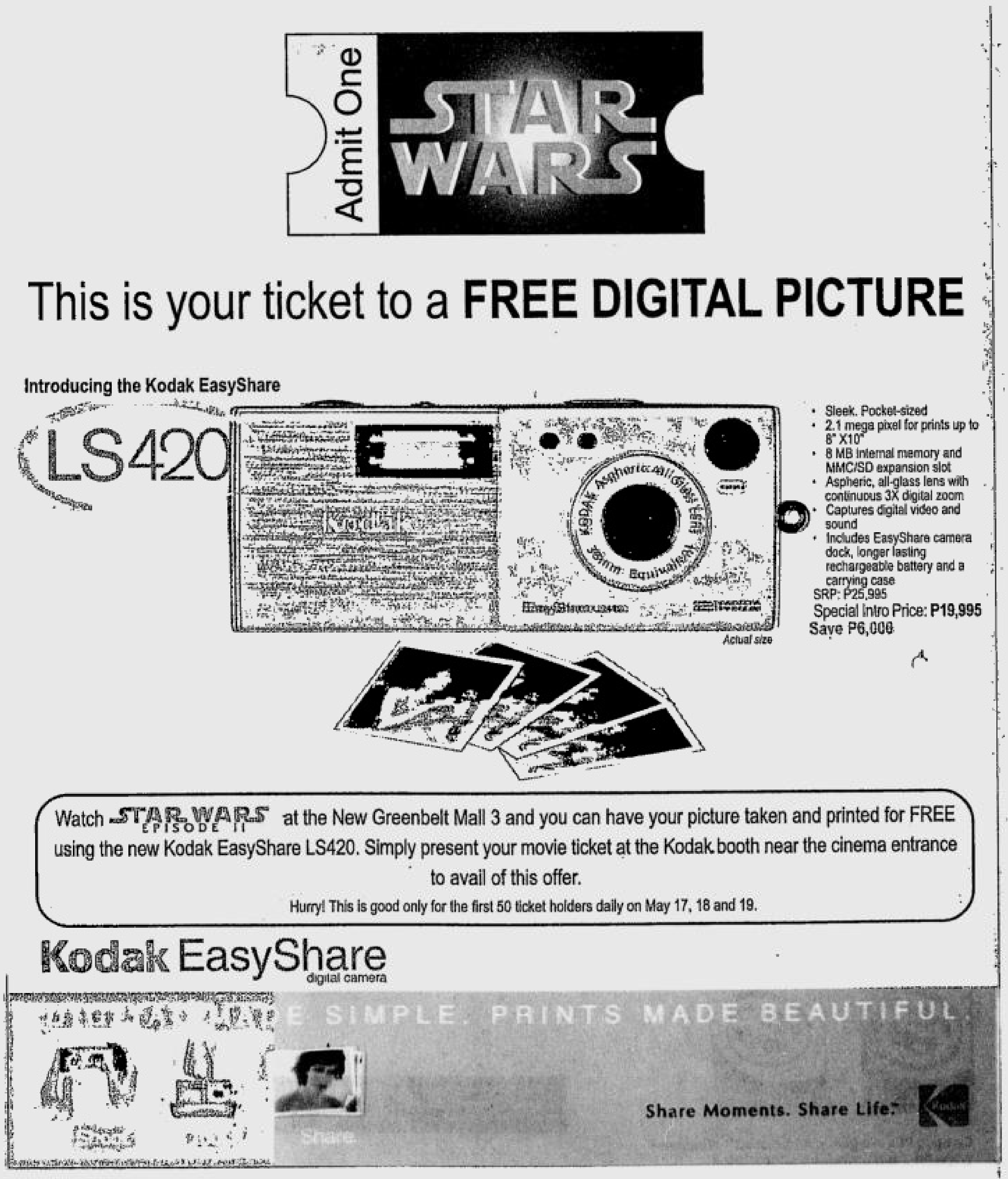
Ting shared the view of other local developers that the volatile property sector was starting to bottom out.

The Ting family's Jolliville, the fifth company to debut on the PSE this year, has interests in property development, management services, leasing as well as water sourcing and distribution.

Jolliville has also some existing interests in leisure and resort development through a joint venture with other investors. It incorporated in 1995 a unit for this business, Jolliville Leisure and Resort Corp. (JLRC), whose first major project was a joint venture in the 60-room Microtel Businessman's Hotel at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club complex in Cavite. JLRC also has a 24.3-percent stake in the Eagle Ridge Hotel Corp.

The company's total assets stood close to P500 million as of end-2001. Its net income last year amounted to P9.4 million, down from P10.24 million in 2000. It expects its net profits to rise to P13.9 million this year on P76.3 million revenues.

Its offering started yesterday and will end on May 28. It will list on the second board of the local stock exchange on June 17. It is offering a total of 94.3 million or 33.5 percent of 281.5 million common shares at a price of P1.09 per share. *Doris S. Dumlao*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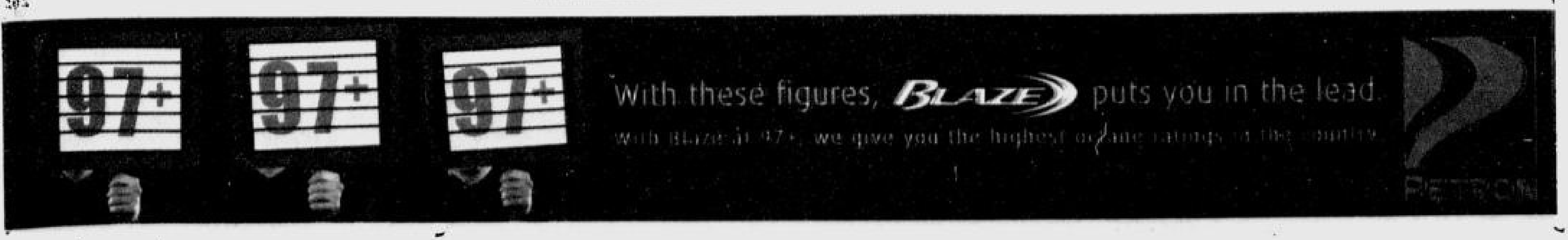
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PETRON

US seeks resumption of air talks with RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE US government is urging the Philippine government to resume negotiations for an open-skies policy to increase the traffic of American airlines going in and out of the country.

During a forum sponsored by the Makati Business Club, US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis J. Ricciardone yesterday echoed the sentiments of American businessmen who were pushing to boost the seating capacity and frequency of flights between the United States and the Philippines.

Ricciardone said that based on the American's bilateral agreement with 54 countries, tourism and trade improved with the adoption of an open-skies policy. Ricciardone expected local players to be initially apprehensive and nervous over an open-skies policy but in the long run it would lead to economic gains for the country.

He said an open-skies policy would also complement the Philippines' ambition to become an aviation hub in the region. He cited the Philippines' liberal policies in air cargo which has led to substantial investments from giants Federal Express and United Parcel Service who have built regional hubs in the country.

In a position paper submitted to Malacañang last year, the American Chamber of Commerce lobbied for an open-skies policy with the United States because the Philippines has been getting a shrinking market share of Asian tourism.

Amcham claimed that more direct international flights to more airports within the Philippines are urgently needed to reduce travel costs, promote tourist and business travel and benefit overseas foreign workers.

The Philippines and the United States have tried to negotiate for an open-skies policy over at least three times in the past few years but discussions broke down as the Philippines pushed for a trade-off from the United States in exchange for opening its airports to the American airlines.

Philippine Airlines has openly blocked the adoption of an open-skies policy with other countries such as the United States, Singapore and South Korea because the status quo keeps the competition within a limited flight frequency and seating capacity.

Supporters of an open-skies policy claimed that the current bilateral air agreements limit the ability of countries to exploit their competitive advantage in tourism and trade due to the inability of airlines to offer global services. Airlines account for 98 percent of all tourists coming into the country and 72 percent of the country's export value.

RP, Malaysia to revive NSC

THE PHILIPPINES and Malaysia have agreed to revive a shuttered steel joint venture through a debt-to-equity swap, Malacañang said yesterday.

The palace quoted Philippines Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II as saying that the Malaysian government would write off P35 billion (about $700 million) of its investments in National Steel Corp.

The Philippine government, for its part, has committed to write off P8 billion of its P16-billion loan to the company.

The amount written off would be converted into equity, the statement said.

It was hoped that the move would lead to the revival of the southern Philippines-based steel firm, which closed in November 1999 due to a flood of cheap steel from Russia and South Korea.

The move was aimed at forging a "formal equity sharing formula," to reopen National Steel, the Philippines' largest steel mill, the statement said.

In a television interview, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said that "some regional investors have already arrived here and they may be able to do something about the investments in National Steel to keep it running."

However, he did not elaborate, saying "there are still discussions going on."

Hottick Investments Ltd., controlled by the Malaysian government, holds an 82.5-percent stake in National Steel while Japan's Marubeni Corp. owns 5 percent. The Philippine government holds the rest.

The closure of National Steel threw thousands of people out of work and hit the economy of the southern city of Iligan, where the mill is based.

AFP

Evils of illegal recruitment

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

THE MOST despicable of all socio-economic tragedies of our times is the shameful spectacle of hundreds of thousands of Filipinos leaving the country each month to work as seamen, medical service providers, construction workers or entertainers who, by the way, every honest Filipino accepts, are oftentimes merely plunged into prostitution.

The tragic reality is seen by government bureaucrats only in the myopic sense as positive in the short term, for OFWs have brought home billions of the much-needed foreign exchange, saving the country's balance of payments situation.

The strategic economic and social costs are never measured in terms of the long-term damage to our own need for such critical human resources in developing the country and the people, of the trauma inflicted upon Filipino families, and the impact on our values as a nation.

Social cancer

The unkindest act of all is perpetrated by the illegal recruiters. They are those who earn millions of pesos on the blood, sweat and tears of OFWs. They are those who get blood money from both the principals and the job applicants, recruit people even without license or accept money even without job orders. They are those who confiscate their clients' passports and visas so as to coerce them into delivering the highly unconscionable recruitment fees and impositions, those who corrupt government functionaries to speed up documentation and to evade legal sanctions. These are the modern cancers of our society.

The pages of our contemporary history are heavily stained with the blood of our hapless OFWs who were murdered abroad, the tears of those who were tortured and maimed, persecuted and oppressed, and the sweat of the overworked, underpaid and exploited women and youth who wasted their lives abroad in search of the almighty dollar.

Conspiracy of corruption

It is not poverty alone that drives our people to foreign lands, for the Filipinos are not the only poor people in the world. There are by far many poorer countries with lesser natural resources and human talents, worse geography and weather, and more oppressive rules and repressive regimes.

But it is in this country that corruption has been perfected as a human art, that in government offices, corruption is a shared value that unites the different echelons of the organization from the Cabinet member to clerk, and that those who are honest are eliminated and marginalized.

Thus, illegal recruitment, is considered in public as evils but abetted under the table as a rich source of funding immoral perversions and even dirty elections.

There are symbolic sanctions and token convictions, of course, in order to appease an increasingly agitated labor sector. Our inefficient and dishonest judicial and quasi-judicial systems have to occasionally show a semblance of public denunciation via a conviction here and a penal sanction there. Oftentimes, it is the small fry that gets hooked. The big-time financiers and masterminds are laughing their hearts out, while the poor languish in jails.

If illegal recruitment is committed by a syndicate and on a large scale, it is an offense involving economic sabotage. Yet, arrests and detentions could not be done easily because there is big money behind. The reprehensible practices of illegal recruiters pose a continuing threat to national security since they exacerbate the social conflicts that ail the society.

Support Sto. Tomas, et al

The present fight, being waged by Labor Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas, POEA Administrator Linda Baldoz, Tesda Director General Lucy Lazo and their few faithful adherents, both inside the DOLE bureaucracy and in the recruitment industry, deserves the support of all decent and patriotic Filipinos.

The well-oiled lobby and pressure groups in the recruitment business have come out with full-page ads against the crusade being waged by DOLE's "tres Marias:" Pat, Linda and Lucy are three warriors against the shenanigans that feed on the helplessness of our desperate and impatient job seekers. These bold women have no selfish agenda, no political ambition nor purpose of enriching themselves. We need to rally behind them in these critical times when our neutrality and indifference can give aid and comfort to the enemies of the people.

Fighting windmills

The dragons of too much exploitation by unscrupulous recruiters via collection of exorbitant fees have to be slain. The windmills of arrogance and hypocrisy of big-time operators and recruitment cartels have to be exposed and prevented from inflicting more pains upon our much-abused OFWs.

The rare activism displayed by the present DOLE top guns has to be supported by the people. If the recruiters can haul truckloads of demonstrators to defend their sources of big money, the millions of victims of illegal recruiters can march in union to help the crusaders fight for such a noble cause. Let us all fight the greatest evil of our times. Think about it.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph.)

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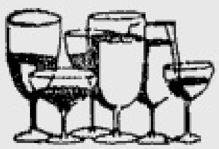

Victor C. Agustin

THE TEMPEST in the WG&A boardroom may end up with the Chiongbians of William Lines—the "W" in the tripartite venture—selling out instead.

(See Cocktales, April 26, 2002, for background.)

According to the grapevine, the Chiongbians have hired the investment bank ING-Barings to help the family unload its stake in WG&A and use the proceeds to appease baying creditors.

The family is groaning under a total of P3 billion in debts, of which P1.9 billion is owed to nine banks and two leasing companies.

The Chiongbians control about 36 percent of the publicly listed but hardly traded WG&A, with Victor Chiongbian as chair.

The family has recently sold Virginia Farms to a Chinoy group that listed Lucio Tan lawyer Antonio Ocampo as incorporator, raising speculations that it was the taipan himself as the real buyer of the piggery farm. Proceeds from the sale, estimated at P375 million, immediately went to service debt payments.

In addition to their flagship William Lines, the Chiongbians also control the Mitsubishi Motors dealership in the island-province as well as the Fast Cargo group. It was the ill-timed and highly leveraged cargo forwarding venture that is now threatening to sink the family fortunes.

Spaced out

IN PUTTING the Philippines back on its investment map, CalPERS, the California state pension fund, has acknowledged that its earlier decision to pull out of the local stock market had been based on an erroneous and outdated research report.

That research, which claimed that the Philippine Stock Exchange was still using manual and thus delayed settlement of trades, was churned out by Santa Monica-based investment adviser/brokerage Wilshire Associates.

Wilshire is better known these days because its founder, chair and CEO, ex-Nasa engineer Dennis Tito, became the first space tourist by paying the Russians $20 million to be able to hitch a ride to the Russian space station last year.

From the quality of its research, it looks like Tito may have to cut back on the adoring cocktail- and media-circuit, put his feet back on ground, and spend more time in the backroom office, specially Wilshire's forward outpost in Singapore.

RP's pride

THE NEW Asian Hospital is being considered by the Saipan government as an off-island medical provider.

The island's Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente was quoted by the Saipan Tribune as having been impressed by the Alabang medical facility whose recent inauguration Benavente attended.

Asian Hospital fees and facilities are apparently attractive compared with those of Guam and Hawaii.

Heard through the grapevine

THE PLAZA has been chosen as the lead caterer for the Mikey Arroyo-Angela Montenegro wedding reception in Lubao, Pampanga, as well as for the *despedida de soltera* of the bride.

But the evening reception in Malacañang will be handled by the Manila Hotel as the wedding "gift" of Don Emilio Yap, who incidentally still refuses to acknowledge and pay the P600-million past-due loan the hotel owes the government workers' pension fund.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi @hotmail.com.)

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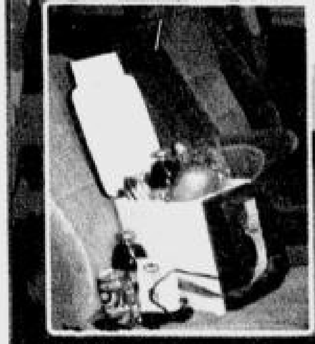

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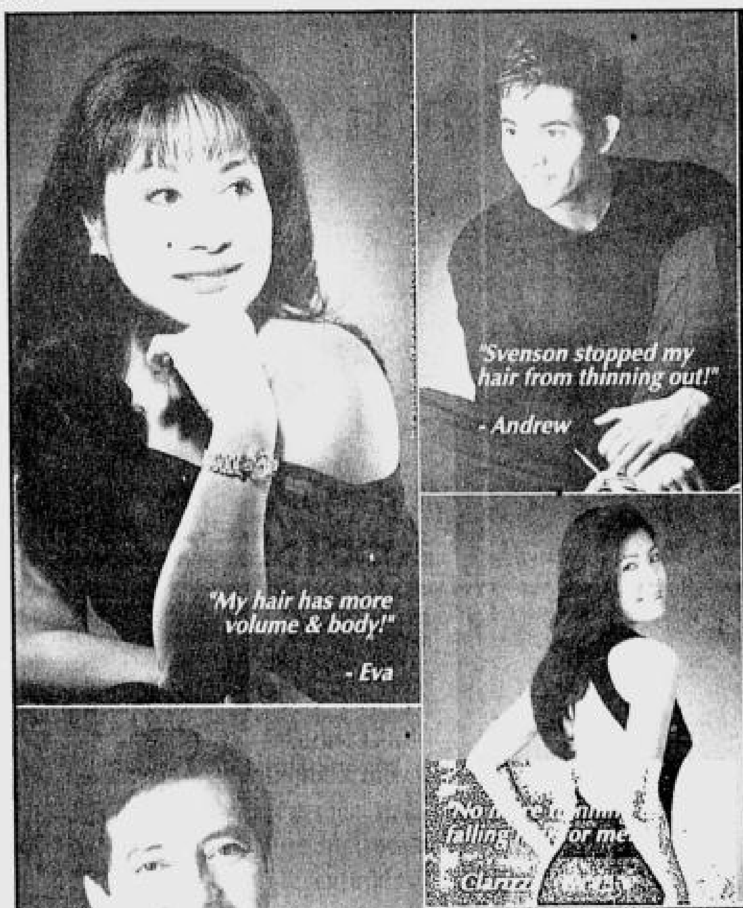

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Analysts say patchy Q1 earnings call for caution

THE PHILIPPINE stock market, one of the darlings of Asia with double digit gains so far this year, is not without pitfalls, as first quarter corporate earnings have been at best a mixed bag, analysts said yesterday.

After rising more than 20 percent early this year on prospects of an improving economy, the market has been consolidating the past several weeks, with investors looking to first quarter results to give fresh impetus to the market.

"The signal, I think, from the first quarter is that profits are not going up across the board, that you have to continue to be selective and discriminating because not everything is going up," said Jojo Gonzales, head of research at Philippine Equity Partners Inc.

Telecom companies—such as the country's largest, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and rival Globe Telecom Inc.—did well on the back of a lucrative cellular phone market. But food and beverage companies, such as San Miguel Corp. and Jollibee Foods Corp., suffered from rising costs and the sluggish economy.

Low interest rates have helped companies to service debt, but have also squeezed margins for most of the country's main banks while the sluggish property sector has hit developers.

Steady performers

The country's largest mall developer, SM Prime Holdings with its predictable rental stream, posted an 11.1-percent rise in net income.

The Philippines' biggest oil firm Petron exceeded analysts' expectations with a 41 percent year-on-year increase, mainly on better margins and effective cost savings programs.

"The numbers are widely divergent . . . you can't really pick any particular trend. In aggregate numbers, there was probably mild growth, probably 5-10 percent year-on-year," Gonzales said.

Analysts said most results were generally within expectations. But the few surprises came on the downside.

The 99-percent drop in the first quarter net income of the country's largest broadcasting network, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., sparked a sharp sell-off that saw its shares plunge about 13 percent after the announcement.

Relatively cool weather in the three months to March led to lower electricity sales for Manila Electric Co.

In addition, higher system losses and the continued deferral of its petition for a rate hike needed to offset heavy capital spending saw Meralco in the red this quarter.

More upside

The main stock index closed down 1.92 points or 0.14 percent at 1,355.74 points on Thursday, partly due to the drop in market heavyweight PLDT, despite the company's announcement that its net income doubled to P1.30 billion in the first quarter. While generally in line with expectations, some investors thought PLDT's earnings were insufficient.

"It looks like we are just going through a consolidation window between the area of 1,300 and 1,450 on the Philippine Stock Exchange's composite index," said Harry Liu, president of Summit Securities. He added the index could edge toward 1,800 should it breach the upside of the range.

"With the present interest rate low and the peso strong, I think the market is more upside looking."

While some issues may be overpriced, Liu said generally the market was fairly valued, taking into account an anticipated recovery in corporate earnings later this year.

Equity Partners' Gonzales said the price-to-earnings ratio for the overall market was currently around 17 times against around 14-15 times late last year. He said he has yet to assess whether to change the target PE ratio for Philippine companies following the first quarter results.

Undervalued

"The market is always looking forward or projecting about 12 to 24 months ahead. So if the market has gone up by about 15 to 20 percent, then they expect these companies to post roughly an earnings growth of 15-20 percent going forward," said Mike Ordinanza, a stock analyst at PCI Equities.

Asked if he thought the market was fair valued or even undervalued, Ordinanza said: "Undervalued at this point, given that the market has declined substantially since 1997. We have seen the market reach almost 3,500 at its peak and right now, it's just third of that value."

"The earnings may not be there yet, but I think if the results in the second quarter and the third quarter are good, we will be back to around '98 or '99 levels in terms of earnings prospects for these companies."

Reuters

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, May 16, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	55.5	57	55.5	56	1,949,100
China Banking Corp.	625	625	625	625	220
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38	38.5	38	38.5	150,600
First E-Bank Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.84	142,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39.5	40.5	39.5	40.5	34,600
Philippine National Bank	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	10,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	16	16	16	16	60,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	23	23.5	23	23.5	42,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1410	1410	1410	1410	190
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1070	1070	1060	1070	61,420
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	4,900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.58	0.59	1,380,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	685	700	685	695	15,090
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.039	0.04	0.038	0.04	6,400,000
Piltel	0.41	0.41	0.38	0.38	3,020,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	460	460	435	442.5	157,250
Ivantage Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	50,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	9,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	26	26	25.5	25.5	15,800
Manila Electric Co. B	38.5	38.5	38	38	163,600
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.74	1.7	1.74	12,200,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	180,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	430,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.8	1,482,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	30,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Gorp.	0.7	0.71	0.69	0.69	1,320,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	255,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	14	13.5	14	81,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	33.5	34	33.5	33.5	256,000
RFM Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.28	175,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	22,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49.5	50	49.5	49.5	111,300
San Miguel Corp. B	57.5	58.5	57.5	58	2,160,300
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	212,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6	6	5.9	5.9	24,264,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.34	2.38	2.34	2.38	422,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	700,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	80,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	110,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	25,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	60,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.59	0.6	4,410,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.23	4,290,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6	6.5	21,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	276,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27	27	26.5	26.5	523,000
Ionics Inc.	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.2	5,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.72	1,080,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.014	0.019	0.014	0.019	1,200,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,000,000
Medco Holdings	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.79	0.8	0.78	0.79	1,880,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.56	0.59	0.55	0.59	70,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,170,000
Music Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	140,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	1,050,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	500,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	200,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	14	14	14	14	500
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.39	0.41	0.39	0.39	2,290,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	60,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	140,000
Manila Jockey Club	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	31.5	31.5	31	31.5	205,200
Equitable PCI Bank-War	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	110,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	810	820	810	820	15,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,300
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	9	9.5	9	9.5	4,844,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.2	2,274,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	2,570,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	1,330,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	150,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.85	3.05	2.85	3.05	3,412,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	130,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	12,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6.1	15,259,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.041	0.043	0.04	0.043	16,600,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	1,030,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,200,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	3,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0036	0.0034	0.0036	39,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,300,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	410,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,458,130	184,642,005.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	171,085,540	492,500,415.00
PRO	25,137,000	120,660,580.00
Mining	27,640,000	956,000.00
OIL	45,930,000	253,500.00
GRAND TOTALS:	272,250,670	799,012,500.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	547.85	UP 5.66
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,840.00	DOWN 15.57
PRO	614.70	UP 5.54
Mining	1,329.91	UP 6.70
OIL	1.30	UP 0.02
All Shares Index	751.37	DOWN 6.55
Composite	1,355.74	DOWN 1.92

NO. OF ADVANCES: 28; NO. OF DECLINES: 30; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 35; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 93; NO. OF TRADES: 1,687

WAREHOUSING, LOGISTICS VENTURE

Edsa Properties to tie up with HK affiliate

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BOARD of high-end property developer Edsa Properties Holdings Inc. has approved the company's plan to enter into a joint venture with Hong Kong-based affiliate Kerry Logistics Network and invest in freight, warehousing and logistics businesses in the country.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, EPHI corporate secretary Federico Noel also said the company planned to increase its authorized capital from P4.5 billion to P6 billion, to be subscribed through a 57-percent stock dividend.

EPHI also announced a cash dividend of 7 centavos to all shareholders of record as of May 30 to be paid on June 3 and to be taken from the company's unrestricted retained earnings.

The plan to diversify into the logistics business is part of an expansion strategy supported by Hong Kong-based parent firm Kerry Properties Ltd.

In an investors' briefing Tuesday night, EPHI officials disclosed that the company was planning to harness the expertise of Kerry Properties, which is 63.14 percent owned by the vast Kuok conglomerate, in logistics and warehouse operations.

The Kerry group is keen on putting up a logistics unit in the Philippines to add to its existing network in Asia.

Hong Kong-based EPHI director Chew Fook Aun estimated that the Kerry group's logistics business was worth about $2 billion to $5 billion per year.

Kerry Properties was formed by the Kuok group to administer its property interests in Hong Kong and Mainland China. It is now one of the largest property investment and development companies in the former British crown colony and is likewise the largest warehouse owner and operator.

With EPHI's low debt level and a strong cash flow as well as balance sheet, company officials told investors they were confident that EPHI could "expand and grow organically and by acquisition."

EPHI's four core businesses are leasing of properties, mall and car park operations, real estate management and property ownership. Its flagship project is the Shangri-La Plaza Mall Corp. where it holds a 78.72-percent stake. It also has a 23.52-percent interest in KSA Realty Corp., which owns the Enterprise Center in Makati.

"We're cash-rich. In fact we have about a billion peso in cash," EPHI executive committee chair Tomas Zita Jr. told reporters at the sidelines of the briefing adding that the company would, however, carefully review its expansion.

CHEW Fook Aun (left), chief financial officer, Kerry Properties limited; Tomas Zita Jr., chair of executive committee. ROGER CARPIO

Zita said EPHI would complete the P500-million renovation of the Shangri-La Mall in Ortigas in the next few months to expand space for lease and boost rental income. The company also plans to improve the mall's retail mix and pursue aggressive marketing efforts.

Also underway are projects to expand the EPHI Center at the Ortigas center using the idle lots within the 8.6-hectare property near the Shangri-La mall and hotel.

EPHI, the former MUI Resources Phils., was incorporated in 1987. Kerry Properties started acquiring shares of the company in 1999 and now owns about 74 percent of EPHI.

Based on a recent report by Salomon Smith Barney, EPHI contributed 4 percent of Kerry's 2001 earnings and 1.3 percent of its net asset value.

"As EPHI's contribution to Kerry Properties' earnings has been so limited in the past few years, we expect Kerry's expertise to help improve its future earnings at a moderate pace," the SSB report said.

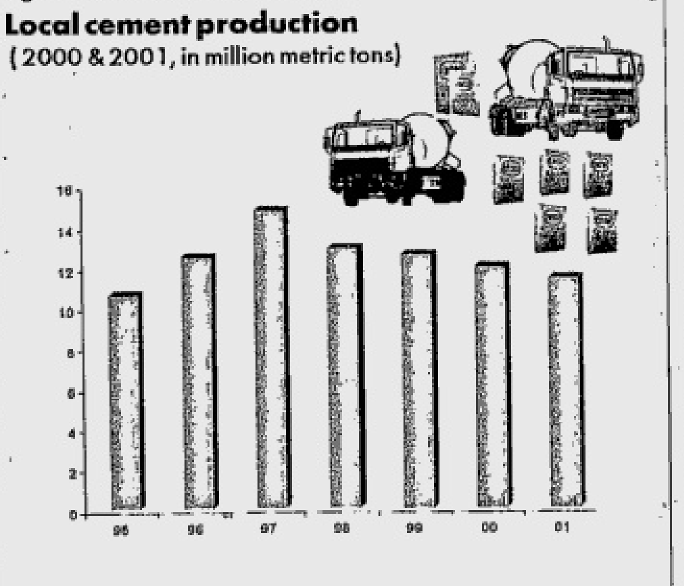
SSB said the strong property presales in China and the aggressive expansion of Kerry's logistics business should also boost the share prices of the Hong Kong-based firm.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Local cement production

(2000 & 2001, in million metric tons)



Source: Industry players

CEMENT production has been steadily declining since it hit a high of 14.5 million metric tons in 1997. Last year, local cement output dropped by 4.9 percent to 11.4 million metric tons.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

RCBC books lower profit

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. said yesterday that its net income in the first quarter dropped 16 percent to P117.6 million from last year's P140.4 million.

Documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission showed that RCBC's net interest income grew 27.5 percent to P1.04 billion, given the substantial drop in interest rates that allowed the bank to enjoy higher margins.

The bank said its other income also went up 24.7 percent to P881 million because of improved trading gain, trust fees, commissions and miscellaneous income.

The increases in net interest and other income, however, were offset by total expenses, which rose 28 percent to reach P1.735 billion in the first quarter.

RCBC noted that despite the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' efforts to provide the right environment, economic activity was minimal, resulting in anemic demand for loans.

"The reduction in the benchmark interest rates to all-time lows failed to promote bank borrowings. Growth in bank lending remained sluggish since other market conditions conspired to prevent the bank from granting fresh loans," RCBC said.

The benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate has been falling steeply to record lows since December last year and is now hovering at a little above 4 percent.

Yet, RCBC noted, loans have not grown because of lackluster growth of the manufacturing sector combined with the decline in investor confidence during the first quarter of this year.

Moreover, RCBC said the first three months of each year was usually characterized by lower growth and less activity compared with the last quarter.

Earlier this year, RCBC suffered from negative publicity from its purchase last year of P10.3 billion worth of 10-year zero coupon bonds or the so-called controversial Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates from the federation of nongovernment organizations headed by the sister of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Elena R. Torrijos

Higher expenses nibble into Filinvest's profit

FILINVEST Land Inc. of the Gotianun family has reported that its net income in the first quarter dipped 6.4 percent to P141.47 million.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Filinvest reported that gross profit realized from sales of subdivision lots and houses went up 13 percent to P256 million from the comparative figure last year.

The growth came from the strong performance of the company's affordable housing projects, mainly Blue Grass in Batangas, Vista Hills and Puenta Altezza in Laguna, Melody Heights in Bulacan, and Fairwayview in Cavite.

Together with equity in net earnings of an affiliate and interest and other income, Filinvest's total revenue during the period grew to P330.4 million from P272 million.

On the other hand, expenses also went up 31.2 percent to P149.79 million from P114 million mainly because interest and other expense jumped roughly fivefold to P46.6 million.

Allied Bank income down 30%

SEQUESTERED Allied Banking Corp. yesterday said that its net income in the first quarter fell 30 percent to P87.28 million from P124.1 million during the same period last year.

In documents filed with the SEC, Allied Bank said its interest income fell to P1.63 billion from P2.22 billion.

At the same time, interest expense also declined substantially to P1.1 billion from P1.545 billion.

Thus, net interest income fell to P529.79 million from P674.32 million.

DISCLOSURES

CROWN Equities Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 31, 4 p.m., at the 4/F Universal Leisure Club, Equitable Tower, Makati City. Only stockholders as of March 30 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

IONICS Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 31, 10:30 a.m., at the Sta. Elena Golf & Country Club, Laguna. Only stockholders as of May 2 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

LIBERTY Flour Mills Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 29, 4 p.m., at the boardroom of Liberty Building, Makati City. Only stockholders as of April 17 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Seafront Resources Corp.** were Leonardo Alejandrino, Helen Dee, Nicasio Alcantara, Alfonso Yuchengco Jr., Rizalino Navarro, Albert Yuchengco, Milagros Reyes, Susanne Santos and Yvonne Yuchengco.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Asian Terminals Corp.** were Roger Davies, Eusebio Tanco, Richard Barclay, Richard Setchell, Genya Iwasaki, Nilo Peña, Remy Tigulo, Douglas LuYm, Arturo Lopez and Ramon Atayde.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University bought 5,000 of its own shares at P8 per share.

* * *

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of **Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.** scheduled on June 6 was moved to a later date.

* * *

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. bought 3.35 million of its own shares at prices ranging from P33.50 to P35 per share.

* * *

MAGNUM Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from May 15 to June 21 to give the company time to prepare and distribute information statement and annual report. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Thais ask: Is globalization really worth it?

BANGKOK—As Western governments tout the benefits of globalization, many of Asia's developing countries are showing signs of resistance to world trade rules that they believe are selling them short.

Thailand, which embraced free trade as a means of exporting its way out of economic collapse five years ago, is hearing citizens and government officials voice opposition to the belief that free trade turns poor countries into rich ones.

"The issue of free trade is a myth," argues Junya Yimprasert, founder of Thai Labor Campaign and the self-proclaimed "No. 1 enemy of every factory in Bangkok" for her efforts to educate workers on their rights.

The cost of globalization has hit Thailand hard, she says. In the race for cheap labor, the daily minimum wage for factory workers has been stuck at 133 baht ($3.10) for the past eight years and millions of farmers earn even less.

One of those workers, "Pim," was sacked last year from the foreign-owned factory in Bangkok where she had made undergarments and lingerie for the past 15 years.

The company claimed insubordination, but Pim said the factory's union-busting tactics had seen 400 people dismissed since labor organizers threatened a strike last year.

"People say superior capitalists come into poor countries and exploit poor workers. It affects us in a bad way," says Pim, not her real name.

"We face cruel conditions, and it's getting worse now," she says.

Like many Thai workers, she believes globalization is partly to blame for the mounting pressure on organized labor, the virtual freeze on Thailand's minimum wage and the plight of millions of impoverished farmers. *AFP*

Japan plans slapping 100% tariffs on American steel

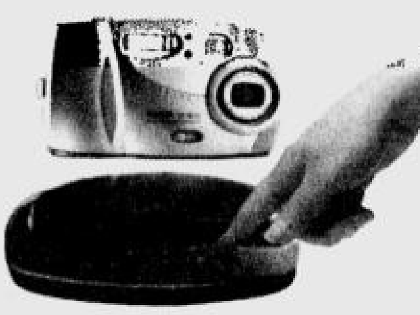
TOKYO—Japan said it would notify the World Trade Organization on Friday of plans to retaliate against US steel tariffs after Washington rebuked Tokyo's last-minute plea for compensation or an annulment of the hefty duties.

The trade ministry announced on Thursday it planned to impose 100-percent tariffs on $4.88 million worth of US steel and steel products from June 18, the first such action by Tokyo.

That would be part of a larger retaliation plan worth $123.43 million to be implemented if the WTO ruled against the United States for placing tariffs of up to 30 percent on steel imports to protect its ailing domestic industry.

Still, Tokyo has left the door open for further negotiations before it implements retaliatory steps next month.

"This is a necessary step to retain our right to the rebalancing measures. What is still important is to continue talking to them," Vice Trade Minister Katsusada Hirose told reporters. *Reuters*



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We've made everything easy for you.
Take a picture, place the camera into the dock and touch the button for easy e-mailing and printing from your computer.

DX 3500
Great looking pictures at very affordable prices
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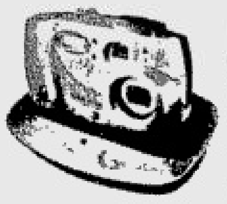
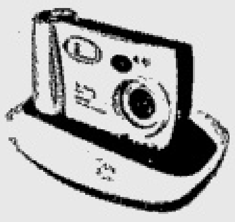
• 3X Digital Zoom
• 8 MB Internal Memory
• Includes Kodak Camera Dock
Suggested Retail Price: P24,900
Now Only: P19,900*



DX 3600
Your digital camera & video camera in one
• 2.2 MP resolution
• 6X zoom (2x optical, 3x digital)
• Captures digital video with audio
• 8MB of internal memory
• Includes Kodak Camera Dock
Suggested Retail Price: P32,600
Now Only: P23,600*

DX 3700
Great for 11" x 14" Prints
• 3.1 MP resolution
• 3X Digital Zoom
• 8 MB Internal Memory
• With16MB Multi media card
• MMC/SD Card slot
• Includes Kodak Camera Dock
Suggested Retail Price: P31,795
Now Only: P27,795*



DX 3900
The Ultimate in Creative Freedom
• 3.1 MP resolution
• 6X Zoom (2x Optical/3x Digital)
• Automatic and Manual Settings
• Includes Kodak Camera Dock
Suggested Retail Price: P39,895
Now Only: P31,895*

*Above prices include Kodak Easy Share Camera Docks (worth P6,000)

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Kodak
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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Asiafood Expo lines up this year's activities

ASIAFOOD Expo 2002, the 11th International Exposition on Food Processing, Packaging and Handling Machinery, Equipment and Technology, will showcase a wide range of supplies and state-of-the-art equipment for food processing, packaging and foodservice industry from Sept. 4 to 7 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila.

To date, 80 percent of the exhibition space has already been occupied by the regular exhibitors, new industry players and the national groups from the United States, the Netherlands, France, Korea, Malaysia and Taiwan. Last year, AsiaFood Expo drew 698 exhibitors from 35 countries, and had more than 20,000 visitors.

One of the highlights of Afex 2002 is the holding of the first national on-the-spot cake decorating competition to be launched by Bakersfield, a division of Actron Industries Inc., in cooperation with the Philippine Federation of Bakers Association Inc. and the Filipino-Chinese Bakery Association Inc.

The first phase of the cake competition is ongoing as elimination rounds are being held in different areas nationwide. Two teams, led by Bakersfield head Joseph Solco and WEV Creative Marketing general manager Sam Musni are currently fanning the country to conduct the elimination rounds. Eight qualifiers from each area will vie for the top spot to move on to the regional finals.

During the recent elimination rounds held in the Cavite-Laguna, Batangas-Mindoro and Bicol-Lucena areas, contestants wowed both the audience and the judges as they showed their cake-decorating artistry using Bakersfield's Whippit and Flavorade. The following have already qualified for the regional finals: Neo Subida (Cavite-Laguna), Larry Baldivino (Batangas-Mindoro), and Christy Bilon (Bicol-Lucena). The grand finals of the competition will be held at the World Trade Center Metro Manila during the AsiaFood Expo.

The event aims to provide an annual venue for professional Filipino bakers to showcase their talents, to help them be recognized by the industry, to help organizations within the industry foster active participation, teamwork and harmony among its members, and to promote products that enhance production processes that lead to better quality products for the consumer.

Other highlights of the exhibit are the seminars, including that which will be conducted by the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc., and cooking demonstrations from the exhibitors.

AsiaFood Expo is the country's biggest exhibition in the food and beverage industry. It has been an excellent venue for expanding trade and industrial linkages between the Philippines and the rest of the world, and an opportunity to initiate business relationships with local buyers.

For booth inquiries, call 834-0085 to 86, fax 831-3828, or e-mail time@skyinet.net.

MCCANN FORGES CASTING ALLIANCE

Top advertising agency McCann-Erickson Philippines recently welcomed casting partner Talentworks Asia into its service family. The first contract of its kind in the industry, the deal gives Talentworks Asia the exclusive task of handling the talent requirements of clients for both McCann and its subsidiary Harrison Communications. Led by top celebrity manager Girlie Rodis, Talentworks takes pride in handling careers of celebrities like Lea Salonga, Martin Nievera and Side A, and supporting the needs of Repertory Philippines. Shown seated from left is Emily Abrera, chair of McCann Erickson Phils. with Ricki Arches, president and CEO of McCann, and Girlie Rodis, president of Talentworks Asia. Standing from left are Lorna Moreno, casting manager for Talentworks, Joey Venezuela, senior vice president for McCann, and Cecile Litonjua, business development director for Talentworks.

BITS Clips

Freego go-kart clinic

FREEGO invites everyone to join the Freego Overdrive Go-Karting Clinic. Learn the basics of go-kart racing as taught by the Carmona Racing Team, a group of professional racers and top-caliber go-kart drivers in the country today. The go-karting clinic will be a whole-day activity with both theoretical and practical applications to be topped off by a racing competition between participants of each batch at the clinic day's end. Clinic venue will be at the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Carmona, Cavite to be conducted for four Saturdays. Go-karting clinic days will be on May 18, June 8, July 6 and Aug. 10. For registration and other inquiries, call the trapik.com hotline at 510-8000 or log on to www.trapik.com. The Freego Overdrive Go-Karting Clinic is also sponsored by Centrum Multivitamins and Minerals, Racegear Pit Stop and trapik.com.

Vaseline Skin Tour visits Dagupan

THE "VASELINE Lotion Healthy Skin Tour" will bring a free, fun and enjoyable experience to Pangasinenses on Saturday, May 18, 2 p.m. at the City Plaza, Dagupan City, Pangasinan. The nationwide roving tour, open to the public for free, showcases various fun booths for mothers and the whole family to familiarize them with the benefits of healthy skin. According to Vaseline Lotion assistant brand manager Jeff Cheng, the tour will allow moms and their families in Dagupan to avail themselves of free hand and arm massages, reflexology therapy, a foot spa, healthy skin tips and learn from skin health counselors. The Vaseline Lotion Healthy Skin Tour is a way to celebrate moms as the "ilaw ng tahanan" and make skin care more simple and appealing to them.

Media launch jumpstarts 4A 25th year celebration

TO COMMEMORATE its 25 years in the business, the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies, (4As) is holding the first-ever advertising summit topbilled "First Quarter Storm".

To jumpstart its yearlong celebration, the association is hosting a media launch on May 23 at 7 p.m. at the Rockwell Plaza, Rockwell Center. The organizing committee for the jubilee bash, chaired by Jimmy Santiago with Louie Morales as honorary chair, will present to various press and broadcast media the program of the Advertising Summit.

To be held on Aug. 29, 30 and 31 at the Philippine Plaza Hotel, the two-and-a-half-day convention will feature a lineup of business topics and top practitioners aimed at promoting the art and science of advertising. There will also be special evenings to honor founding fathers of the 4As and the Pilak 25 Classic Pinoy Ads the country has produced over the past century.

The advertising summit's theme evokes the same idealism which makes 4As what it is today. At the same time, it sets the tone for the next 25 years. The Advertising Summit is 4As response to the burning issues faced by ad agencies and advertisers today in the areas of creativity and understanding consumer changes.

As an offshoot of the Summit, a half-day student forum will be part of the program to precede a tour of universities by a panel of industry speakers with a prepared agenda and talks to students.

The convention is open to all AdBoard members, 4As members, students, and the general public. For more details, e-mail 4asp@skyinet.net or call 813-4397 or 893-1205.

PASINAYA 2002: DOON PO SA AMIN

Bel-Air celebrates double this year as it commemorates its Sapphire Anniversary in it annual Community Day. The ladies' committee under barangay captain Nene Lichauco and Bava governor Winda Bautista has named the festivity Pasinaya 2002: Doon Po Sa Amin. The celebrations have been expanded into a weekend of entertainment, from May 17 to 19. All shows are free of charge. Inquiries are welcome at the Bel-Air Village Association care of the manager Glo Ambay at 895-4011 or 897-1856. Shown are Bava members (seated, from left) Pressy Tam, Baby Jalandoni, Linda Miranda, Winda Bautista, Nene Lichauco, Corie Gomez, Pepsi Aro, Ope Lopez and Saling Boncan. Standing, from left, are Josie Lacson, Tes Pineda, Cons Guerrero, Amor Jalandoni, Glo Ambay, Manette Acero, Letty Santos, Malyne Lorayes, Marian Krohn, Judah Liu, Elsa Buntua, Nina Quiray, Pat Nepomuceno and Carla Santos.

4AS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEET

The Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies Philippines (4As-P) recently inducted its new set of officers and directors for 2002 at Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati. Present in the event were the new officers and some of the proud pillars in the industry (from left) Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, president of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Billy Rockwell, 4As director (president and CEO of Charisms Inc.), Jacinto CS Puno, 4As president (managing partner, TBWA/Santiago Mangada Puno), Marixi Prieto, chair of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Angelito Panglinan, 4As chair (general manager, Campaigns & Grey), Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, editor-in-chief of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Cyril dela Rama, 4As director (EVP and general manager, DYR-Alcantara), March Ventosa, 4As director (managing director, Hemisphere-Leo Burnett), Tweetums Gonzalez, chair of the Agency of the Year Awards 2001, Miguel Ramos, 4As vice president (president, Aspac Advertising), Susan Dimacali, 4As treasurer (McCann-Erickson Phils), and Socky Pitargue, 4As board secretary (president, PC&V Communications Inc.).

Product FILES

Chiclets Lemon Gum introduced

CHICLETS, the delicious chewing gum that effectively freshens breath, has been the Filipinos' choice fresh-breath gum for over 50 years. Now, Pfizer Adam's Group puts a new twist to an old-time favorite by launching its newest variant—Chiclets Lemon Gum. One pack contains 10 mouthwatering pieces, each one a delightful combination of sweet and sour, tangy, citrus-y and cool. New Chiclets Lemon Gum is now available in supermarkets, groceries and all other leading drugstores and convenience stores.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA)
Asiatrust Bank Bldg., 1424 Quezon Avenue,
Quezon City 1104

STAND Philippines 2000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bidding Date : June 13, 2002
Pre-Bid Conference : May 29, 2002
(WFFC Conference Room)

1. **IIF/SSB Radio Transceiver**
2. **Copier Machines Rental**
3. **Thermometer (maximum/minimum)**
4. **Soil Dial Thermometer**
5. **Tipping Bucket Raingauge**
6. **Thermometer Shelter**
7. **Totalizing Anemometer**
8. **Thermometer (float type, max/min. water)**
9. **Pyrheliometer**
10. **6-Point DOT Printing Recorder**
11. **Automatic Raingauge w/ event recorder**
12. **Hygrothermograph**
13. **Mercurial Barometer**
14. **Microbarograph**
15. **Thermograph**
16. **Wind Equipment**

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above using TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM to be opened publicly at the Conference Room of the Weather & Flood Forecasting Center (WFFC), PAGASA, Agham/BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bid requirements will be issued at the PAGASA Records Section, 4th Floor, ATB Bldg., 1424 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City upon presentation of this advertisement clipping, together with the company's TIN on **May 21, 2002.**

Bidding documents will be issued by the BAC Secretariat from **May 27, 28, & 29, 2002** at the Records Section 4th Floor, ATB Bldg. To those parties who applied and considered eligible to participate in the bidding.

Only eligible bidders shall be invited to the Opening of Bids on **June 13, 2002** at 2:00p.m. at the WFFC Conference Room, PAGASA DIC Bldg., Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids should be accompanied by a 2.5% Bidder's Bond in a form of Cash, Manager's Check or GSIS Bond, callable on demand within 120 days from the bidding date.

All inquiries concerning this invitation to bid should be addressed to the Chairman, PAGASA-BAC.

The PAGASA reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason of its own, waive any formality therein when necessary, and to accept complying offer considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ELLAQUIM A. ADUG**
Chairman, PAGASA-BAC

(PDI - May 17, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
ADVANCED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE
U.P. Technology Park Complex, C.P. Garcia Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City, 1101 Philippines
Email: info@asti.dost.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The **ADVANCED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (ASTI)** is inviting Dealers/Suppliers for the supply of the following:

1. **Twelve (12) units Aironet 340 Series Bridge or equivalent**
2. **One (1) unit Sectoral Antenna**

Opening of bids will be on **May 27, 2002, 2:00 p.m.** at ASTI Bldg., C.P. Garcia Ave., U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City. Bidding documents may be obtained from **ASTI** or call Millet D. Pedro at tel. no. **435-1050** for more details.

We require the bidders to have the following requirements:

a. Certificate of dealership from manufacturer
b. Dealer's permit from NTC

In case of failure of bidding due to insufficient number of participating and responsive bidders, **a re-bidding shall automatically be re-scheduled one week** after the announcement of a failure of bid.

(Sgd.) **JESUS C. MANIO**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - May 17, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
METROSTAR EXPRESS

INVITATION TO BID

The DOTC-MRT 3 Bids and Awards Committee invites all interested bidders/suppliers to prequalify and bid for the supply and delivery of LIGHT RAIL VEHICLE HAND STRAPS for the MRT 3 with a total approved budget amounting to Php 555,000.00.

Accreditation requirements can be obtained upon payment of non-refundable fee of P100.00 to the Administrative Division, DOTC-MRT 3 Depot, North Avenue cor. EDSA, North Triangle Area, Quezon City. Submission of duly accomplished and notarized prequalification documents shall not be later than 5:00 P.M., 28th May 2002. Accredited/prequalified bidders/suppliers need not apply.

Bid documents and complete specifications are available for issuance upon payment of P500.00, which is not refundable and upon presentation of Notice of Invitation and Certificate of Accreditation.

The DOTC-MRT 3 reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids proposals without offering any reasons, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. This office, likewise, assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that an award shall be made.

(Sgd.) **MARIO C. MIRANDA**
Acting General Manager
Metrostar Express, and
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI—May 15, 17 & 19, 2002)

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Ofc Adm Staff 9134470
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OFFC STAFF 9134470Bianca

OFFICE STAFF 18-45 w/w/o exp Start Asap 9134470 MAYA

SECRETARY Grad Makati Res G-5 Mkt Med Cntr T-8188835

Urgent Ofc Staff 18-45 w/w/o exp Start Asap 9134470VINA

WANTED CHOREOGRAPHER Urgent Tel. •046-4163432•

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that the intestate estate of the late PILAR BANAAG was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc#11, Page#4, Book#LIV, Series of 2001 under Not. Pub. Ramon M. Medina of Taal, Batangas.
(PDI- May 17, 24 & 31, 2002)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(Never Known to Fail)

O Most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen. (This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request willl be granted and the prayer must be published.)

PRAYER TO HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen.

Person must pray this 3 consecutive days without stating one's wish. After 3rd day Your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be.

Promise to publish this soon as your favor has been granted.-JL

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road,
Balara, Quezon City

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

INVITATION TO BID (E-BID)

May 9, 2002

Gentlemen:

The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) is inviting all interested bidders to participate in the Electronic Bidding for the 1-year requirement of Brass Ball/Straight Valves, 20mm inlet thread size x 20mm swivel nut outlet thread size. There will be two (2) bid events to be presented as follows:

Bid Event No. I - 17,446 pieces
Bid Event No. II - 11,630 pieces

MWSI Stock Code : AJ0450-G516

AS PER ATTACHED MWSI TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

Interested suppliers are required to submit the following as part of pre-qualification/evaluation to the MWSI-Purchasing Department; on or before **May 31, 2002**; 5:00 PM:

1. At least three (3) samples (for testing)
2. Shop Drawing and/or brochures (please use MWSI Title Block)
3. Test Report of the following:
   a) Materials Analysis (Physical and Chemical Test)
   b) Hydro Test Report
4. Customers feedback on Product Performance

The complete bid documents can be secured at the Purchasing Department, Basement, Eng'g. Building, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Hundred Pesos Only (P500.00) in the form of cash or Manager's Check payable to Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

E-Bid schedule will be on **JUNE 21, 2002** (Friday); 2:00 p.m.

MWSI finally reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any and all informalities therein, and accept the bid it deemed most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ**
AVP-Corporate Logistics

(PDI - May 17, 2002)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE
897-8808 loc. 514, 516; 899-4425;
897-2535; 897-8425 (Telefax)
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912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)
MAKATI
892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
KALAW
528-0213; 527-3342
MEGAMALL
635-0219; 635-0220

BENGUET CORPORATION

One Corporate Plaza
845 Arnaiz Avenue, 1223 Makati City

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Benguet Corporation scheduled on **May 28, 2002** is postponed to a later date after **June 30, 2002**.

May 14, 2002, Makati City, Philippines.

By authority of the Board of Directors.

(Sgd.) **HERMOGENE H. REAL**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI–May 17, 2002)

INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Cat's lick

Q. Why does a cat lick its owner's hand?

A. Cat lovers like to think that when their cat licks their hand or any other bare part of their body, it does so to show affection. However, to see in a cat's lick a kind of feline kiss misinterprets its reason, which is actually far removed from any expression of love. Like humans, at times cats need salt and having discovered its presence in their owner's skin try to lick it. Thus your cat's motive is its own well-being, not love.

Classified Odd. Sugar, a two-year-old Persian cat living in Anderson, California, had a hip deformity, which made her uncomfortable during car travel. Consequently, she was left behind with a neighbor when her family moved in 1970 to Gage, Oklahoma, which is 2,400 kilometers away. Two weeks later, Sugar disappeared. Fourteen months later, she turned up in Gage on her old owner's doorstep – having traveled 171 kilometers a month to reach a place where she had never been before.

Classified Odd. Sugar was rationed in the United States during World War II. Why? Enormous quantities were needed to make the ethyl alcohol required to produce smokeless gunpowder. Patriots who cheerfully drank bitter coffee for the cause in those dim days may be interested to learn that it took an entire acre of sugarcane to squeeze out ethyl alcohol enough to make gunpowder for five shots from a 16-inch gun.

WORD WATCH

Asukal : from the Spanish *azucar*, 'sugar.'

PDI – May 17, 2002

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
INTELLIGENCE GROUP
Camp Crame, Quezon City

PUBLIC APOLOGY: SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

The **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE INTELLIGENCE GROUP (PNP-IG)** expresses its deepest and sincerest public apologies to the families of **MR. FERNANDO LOZADA** and **MARIANNE USON** for their unfortunate Death and for the consequent immeasurable suffering of their family and loved ones.

The PNP-IG continues to struggle to restore the people's faith in its sworn duty of protecting the innocent and to reconcile with the families of those whose lives have been needlessly lost in the course of its honest attempt to carry out its sworn duty. In the span of time, the PNP-IG has tried to recapture that rare privilege of taking pride in dispensing the dignity of its noble profession even as its members and their respective families suffer the ignominy arising from the unfortunate incident. The PNP-IG cannot say how people feel and think of their organization. It can only plead for understanding and charity for the tragic and accidental results of the police operation, just like the Fernando Lozada and Marianne Uson incident.

Therefore, the PNP-IG reiterates its public apology to the families of Mr. Fernando Lozada and Marianne Uson, as it respectfully submits itself to the people. While the PNP-IG bears the full responsibility of the Lozada-Uson incident, it hopes that the incident shall and not be repeated in the future where citizens' lives are needlessly lost.

ROBERT C. DELFIN
Police Chief Superintendent
Director, Intelligence Group

(PDI - May 17, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
TOLL REGULATORY BOARD
2/F Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Building
Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 631-4673, 631-4749, 631-5025, 631-5901
Fax No. 631-6034; Email:trbexdir@pacific.net.ph

GUIDELINES FOR THE TEMPORARY GRANT OF USE OF EXPRESSWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR UTILITIES AND PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT E.G. CONSTRUCTION OF POWER, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, WATER, GAS AND OTHER LINES

In the interest of the public and as mandated under existing laws, the Toll Regulatory Board hereby issues these Guidelines for the Temporary Grant of Use of Expressway Right-of-Way for Utilities such as but not limited to Power, Telecommunications, Water, Gas and other Lines whether public or private.

1.0 COVERAGE
These guidelines cover all utilities whether public or private to be installed temporarily inside the Tollway rights-of-way.

2.0 LOCATION

2.1 Utilities Proposed should run parallel to the Road Right-of-Way Fence.
Erected/installed poles and lines shall be at most 0.5 m. from right-of-way limit. Footings, excavations, foundations and the like for poles and lines shall not obstruct existing roadway and drainage facilities of Tollways.

2.2 For Utilities and Pipelines Proposed to Cross Tollways
Lines crossing Tollways shall be installed underground.

3.0 QUALIFICATION OF THE PROPONENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF POWER, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, WATER, GAS AND OTHER PIPELINES.
The Proponent shall be a Citizen of the Philippines and/or a Philippine corporation or association qualified to undertake the financing, design, construction and operation and maintenance of the proposed pipelines.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITY OF PROPONENT
The responsibilities of the Proponent are as follows:

4.1 Financing
The Proponent shall shoulder financing and all costs including those required for pre-construction and construction proper;

4.2 Design
The Proponent shall prepare all Preliminary Engineering Studies and detailed engineering plans and designs and submit same to the TRB through the concerned Tollway Operator for evaluation and approval;

4.3 Construction
The Proponent shall construct utilities in accordance with the approved plans and drawings, detailed designs and technical specifications;
The proponent shall secure for its account all necessary permits and licenses pertinent to the contract works and shall bear all costs, duties, fees and other charges thereof;
The Proponent shall propose the project design and the technology to be used in the project, which shall be in accordance with the appropriate standards acceptable to the Department of Environment and National Resources (DENR) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) as applicable. Appropriate clearances from the DENR shall be secured prior to start of construction. The proponent shall assume full responsibility for the assessment of the environmental impact of the project as approved;
The Proponent shall restore to their original condition all facilities such as ROW fence that may be affected during the construction subject to the full satisfaction of the TRB and the concerned Tollway Operator; and,
The Proponent shall submit immediately upon completion of the contract works the required as-built plans. The Proponent shall Secure a Certificate of Acceptance from TRB of the contract works upon its final completion.

4.4 Supervision by TRB
The Proponent shall shoulder the Engineering Supervision Costs of TRB for the construction of the proposed development equivalent to two (2) percent of the total construction cost of the project components to be implemented within the ROW of the Expressway; and
The Proponent shall officially notify TRB in writing of the exact dates when the proposed construction shall be started and completed. Moreover, TRB thru its duly authorized representative shall be given access to the construction works at all times for inspection of the works being undertaken.

4.5 Operation and Maintenance
The Proponent shall finance, design, construct, establish, operate, and maintain and manage the Utility Facilities and other incidental appurtenances thereto including the lease and/or purchase of any additional/required sites.

4.6 Coordination with the Tollway Operator
The Proponent shall coordinate strictly with the concerned Tollway Operator for the smooth implementation of the project and the Proponent shall comply with requirements in accordance with standard industry practice that may be imposed by the concerned Tollway Operator.

4.7 Removal of Constructed Utilities and Pipelines
The Proponent shall for its own account remove all built utilities and pipelines as authorized under these guidelines within a reasonable time and after due notice, in the event of any widening of the expressway which shall affect the built lines and poles, or should public interest so require.

5.0 PARTIES TO CONTRACT
The Utility Facilities Agreement shall be entered into by and between the concerned Tollway Operator and the Proponent. Said contract shall be subject to TRB approval.

6.0 PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY GRANT OF USE OF TOLLWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY

6.1 The Proponent shall submit to the Tollway Operator a Letter of Intent stating, among others, the applicant's qualifications, the location and vicinity map of the proposed project, the general plan thereof, the financial capability to sustain the financing thereof, the estimated date when construction may be undertaken upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed and other data to enable the Tollway Operator to properly evaluate said application.

6.2 Within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the Letter of Intent the Tollway Operator shall complete the review of the Letter of Intent and notify the proponent immediately of the results of its preliminary review;

6.3 If the preliminary review is favorable, the proponent shall, not later than thirty (30) days from receipt of the Tollway Operator's notification (item 6.2), submit a Preliminary Engineering Study which shall include proof of its financial, technical and operational capability and competence to undertake the project together with such other documents as may be required by the Tollway Operator;

6.4 Within fifteen (15) days from submission of the Preliminary Engineering Study the Tollway Operator shall complete the evaluation of said submission and notify immediately the applicant of the results of said evaluation;

6.5 The Tollway Operator shall simultaneously submit the Preliminary Engineering Study it has approved and other related documents to the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) for approval;

6.6 Detailed Design Stage
After approval by TRB of the Preliminary Engineering Study and related documents, the proponent shall be required to submit through the Tollway Operator, for approval detailed engineering designs and plans based on the approved proposals. The detailed designs shall also conform with DPWH standards and other requirements. Notwithstanding the approval of TRB of detailed design, the proponent shall be solely responsible for the integrity of its detailed engineering design and plans. The approval thereof by the TRB shall not diminish this responsibility, nor shall it transfer any part of its responsibility to TRB. The detailed design shall include but is not limited to the following documents:
A Detailed Plans and Drawings
B Design Analysis
C Specifications
D Quantity Calculations
E Proposal Book and Conditions of Contract
F Cost Estimates

6.7 The Tollway Operator shall, within thirty (30) days upon receipt of the Proponent's Detailed Designs, complete the evaluation of the said Designs and endorse to the Toll Regulatory Board all the aforesaid documents, including those mentioned in clauses 6.1 and 6.3;

6.8 The Toll Regulatory Board thru the BOD-DPWH shall review, assess and evaluate the aforesaid Detailed Design and documents; and, inform the Tollway Operator and the Proponent of the results thereof;

6.9 Upon receipt of the favorable consideration by the TRB of the detailed design, the Tollway Operator shall, within fifteen (15) days thereafter, execute the Utility Facility Agreement (Section 5.0) with the Proponent specifying, therein the date of the commencement of construction as well as the duration thereof and all other conditions requisite;

6.10 Documentation
After TRB's approval of the detailed design and plans and the Utility Facilities Contract, the Proponent shall submit the following documents, which shall form part of the conditions for the Notice to Proceed:
A Resolution of TRB approving the construction and the Utilities Facilities Agreement and their conditions
B Detailed Design and Plans
C Specifications
D Conditions of Construction Contract (between the proponent and its contractor)
E Quantity and Cost Estimates
F Certificate of Availability of Funds for the proposed project
G Authority of the Signing Official
H Construction Schedule (PERT/CPM) and S-Curve Diagram
I Certificate of one-year warranty of completed work/ Warranty Bond
J Equipment Schedule
K Project Organization and Supervision Chart (TRB/ Proponent/Contractor/Constuction Implementation Chart)
M Method of Construction
N Copy of Signed Utility Facilities Contract
O Performance Bond
P Certification from DENR authorizing the Construction (e.g. Environmental Clearance Certificate)

6.11 Issuance of Notice to Proceed
After compliance to documentation requirements and the payment of construction supervision fee to TRB, the TRB shall issue the Notice to Proceed for the construction of the proposed utility development.

7.0 COMMON PROVISIONS OF A UTILITY FACILITIES' AGREEMENT

7.1 The Utility Facilities' Agreement (UFA) shall have an initial term not exceeding ten (10) years, renewable thereafter upon mutual agreement of the parties and approval thereof by TRB;

7.2 All fees/charges that may be imposed by the Tollway Operator shall be subject to prior written approval by the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB);

7.3 The UFA shall conform with all the Guidelines provided herein, as well as all laws, rules and regulations imposed by both national and local authorities, including Republic Act 2000, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Administrative Order No. 1;

7.4 The Tollway Operator shall bring to the attention of the Utility Facilities Operator, in writing, any infractions, violations and/ or non-compliance with any of the provisions, terms and conditions of the Utility Facilities Agreement; Provided, that a thirty (30) calendar days period, after receipt of written notice, shall be given to the Operator to rectify and/or undertake corrective measures;

7.5 Whenever requested by the Tollway Operator, the Utility Facilities Operator shall submit such reports relative to its entire operations, including customer sales analysis reports if any and to pay TRB its obligations;

7.6 The Utility Facilities Proponent shall restore without any delay the area where said facility is located to its original state, including the removal of all debris and equipment and other related activities;

7.7 Subject to prior notice, the Tollway Operator shall cancel, revoke and rescind the Utility Facility Operator's authority to operate said Utility Facilities and/or stop the operations thereof for serious violations or material breach of the provisions of the UFA;

7.8 In case the proponent is a Joint Venture or Consortium, the members or participants thereof shall submit sworn statements undertaking that if granted the Utility Facilities' Agreement (UFA), they shall bind themselves individually to be jointly and severally responsible for the obligations of the Utility Facility's Operator under the UFA; and,

7.9 The UFA may be amended, revoked whenever public interest so requires or in case of the failure of the Utility Facility's Operator to comply with the provisions of the Utility Facilities Agreement.

8.0 GOVERNMENT SHARE ON REVENUES
The Government of the Republic of the Philippines, thru the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), by way of Concession Fees shall receive fifty percent (50%) of all fees or charges imposed by the Tollway Operator on the Utility Facility's Operator. For this purpose the Tollway Operator and the Proponent shall propose jointly for approval of TRB the fees or charges to be collected from the Utility Facility Operator. Such share in Concession Fees shall be used by TRB for ROW Acquisition.

9.0 SANCTIONS
The Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) reserves the right to assume the rights and obligations of the Tollway Operator in cases where the Tollway Operator fails or willfully refuses to enforce its rights and obligations as well as the instructions of the TRB under the UFA and these Guidelines.
Disagreements between the Tollway Operator and Utility Facility Operator shall be brought immediately to the attention of the TRB for resolution. Decisions of the TRB in this regard shall be binding on the Tollways Operator and the Utility Facility Operator.

10.0 AMENDMENT OF RULES AND REGULATIONS
These Guidelines may be amended from time to time whenever public interest so requires.

11.0 EFFECTIVITY
These Implementing Rules and Regulations shall take effect upon approval by the Toll Regulatory Board and fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED:

SIMEON A. DATUMANONG
Chairman

RUBEN S. REINOSO, JR.
Member

EMMANUEL P. BONOAN
Member

SAMUEL C. CUSTODIO
Member

MARIO K. ESPINOSA
Member

(PDI - May 17, 2002)

CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its
INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID
on the following.

1. **Sale of steel structure, galvanized iron sheets, insulators/walling and other accessories**
2. **Supply of Grand Piano Roller/Lift**
3. **1 unit (32) Channel Mixing Console with power supply**
4. **Services of Land Appraisal for the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) lots**
5. **Lease of Liwasang Tuwaang (grassy area) consisting of 7,961.63 sq.m. located between Star City and PICC to be used as parking area.**
6. **Lease of three (3) office/store spaces at CCP Bay Terminal A with an area of 5.4 sq.m. (2 spaces) and 18.27 sq.m.**

You may secure Checklist of Pre-Qualification Requirements from Mr. Ed Duque, Office of the Vice President, Cultural Center of the Philippines, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Tel. Nos. 832-3680 or 832-1125 loc. 1101.

Deadline for submission of requirements is on Wednesday, 29 May 2002 until 6:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) DENNIS N. MARASIGAN
Chairman, CCPBAC

(PDI – May 17 & 19, 2002)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Market Determined Pricing 2,975 MT (59,500 BAGS) more or less Calrose Rice Variety, Grade No. 1, at the indicative price of:

a. Ex-Warehouse Php P22.00/kg or P1,100/bag

on **May 23** and **29, 2002** at 10:00 AM at the NFA Penthouse, 101 Matimyas Building, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

A pre-bidding conference shall be held on **May 21** and **27, 2002** at 10:00 AM at the NFA Penthouse. In the pre-auction, interested bidders shall bring the following:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling).
b. Duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.

All interested bidders shall submit a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of cash, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check from any reputable banks in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting **May 20, 2002** at DMO OCD, 5th Floor from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. For any inquiries, please call tel. nos. 712-1572 and 712-1708.

Bidding documents will be available on **May 20, 2002** to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. In case of bidding failure, a pre-bidding/re-bidding shall be conducted at 10:00 AM at NFA Boardroom on **May 27** and **29, 2002**, respectively.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI – May 16 & 17, 2002)

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Km. 5, J.P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City, Philippines
Tel. No. 221-9400 (connecting all departments)
Tel. Nos. 221-6218 to 19 (Regional Training Center, Madapo Hill, Davao City)
Fax (82) 2264885

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All interested Consultants/Geodetic Engineers are invited to apply for eligibility and to bid for the conduct of a Parcellary/Land Survey for purposes of delineating the planted areas equivalent to 153 parcels more or less having a total area of 458.5 has. situated at Brgy. New Dalleon Plantation, Tungkalan and Manuel Guianga covered under the Mt. Talomo-Lipadas watershed project of DCWD.

APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT - Php 558,216.60

Pre-C/Eligibility requirements are available at the DCWD BAC-B office starting **May 17, 2002** during its business hours. Deadline for submission of Pre-C/eligibility documents is on **May 31, 2002**. Schedule of the Pre-bid conference and Opening of Bids shall be announced later.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/ informality of the bids received and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. EDWIN V. REGALADO**
Chairman, Pre-qualification, Evaluation & Awards Committee for Consultancy (PEACC)

(PDI - May 17 & 24, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
Km. 5, J.P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City, Philippines
Tel. No. 221-9400 (connecting all departments)
Tel. Nos. 221-6218 to 19 (Regional Training Center, Madapo Hill, Davao City)
Fax (82) 2264885

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/ APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All interested contractors with category PCAB D and above, and IAC Special Classification on Well Drilling or Water Supply are invited to participate in the bidding for the RE-DRILLING OF TWO (2) PRODUCTION WELLS (PWs), using Rotary Method.

Approved Budget for the Contract:

PW No. 10, located at Dumoy, Davao City	**Php 3,173,055.70**
PW No. 14, located at Puan, Davao City	**3,201,164.80**

Pre-C/Eligibility requirements are available at the DCWD BAC-B office starting **May 20, 2002** during its business hours. Deadline for submission of Pre-C/Eligibility documents will be on or before May 31, 2002. Opening of Bids will be on **July 18, 2002.**

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities therein, or to award the project to a bid that is considered most advantageous to the agency.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. EDWIN V. REGALADO**
Chairman, DCWD-BAC-B

(PDI - May 17 & 24, 2002)

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PACITA E. CASTAÑO

of Ivana, Batanes and Iloilo City

Peacefully joined her Creator
on Monday, May 13, 2002
at the age of 78.

Her brothers **ROSAURO** (†), **MANUEL, CARLOS, VALENTIN, Jr.** (†); and sisters **HONORIA, SONIA, CAROLINA** (†) and **VERA**; nephews and nieces, and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel E, Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 18, 2002, at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Chapel E, Funeraria Paz.

The family of the late

EMMA CATRAL STA. ANA

who passed away on May 16, 2002
at the age of 62.

wishes to inform relatives and friends
that her remains lie in state at
Xavierville Subdivision, Phase I Chapel,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Interment will follow on Sunday, May 19, 2002
after the 2:00 PM Chapel Mass at
Loyola Memorial Park,
Marikina.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

"Kikoy"

A. FRANCISCO "KIKOY" MAGBANUA LLARENA, SR.,
widower of the late Asuncion Ledesma Llarena,
and his brother, **AMADO MAGBANUA LLARENA,**
joined their Creator on May 11, 2002
and May 12, 2002 respectively.
A. Francisco, Sr. was 91 and Amado was 86.

A. Francisco, Sr. is survived by his children
Evelyn, Romeo, A. Francisco, Jr., and **Corazon,**
daughter-in-law **Mila,** grandchildren **Romel** and **Mia,**
and granddaughter-in-law **Debbie.**
Amado is survived by his son **Rodolfo**
and daughter-in-law **Lilia,** and four grandchildren.
Other relatives and friends request the pious readers
to pray for the eternal repose of their souls.

Interment for A. Francisco, Sr. will be
at the Bicol Memorial Park on May 18, 2002
after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass
at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Legazpi City.

AMELIA "MELY" PEREZ BABAO-HO

of San Juan, Batangas and Cainta, Rizal
of First Philippine Industrial Corp. (FPIC) and
of Corporate Investments Phil. Inc. (CIPI)

joined her Creator on May 15, 2002
at the age of 64.

Her late husband **Zoilo** (†); sisters **Alicia** (†), **Zenaida**; brothers **Bienvenido** (†) & **Salustiano** (†); nephews, nieces, in-laws and friends request your pious prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel E, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation shall be at 8:00 AM on May 19, 2002. Her cremated remains shall be placed at the Mt. Carmel Church Crypt.

Our Beloved

AUGUSTO K. ROXAS

"Chito"

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 14, 2002 at the age of 65.

His bereaved wife **Rica**; children **Raquel & Ricky, Rina & Nixon, Winnie, Jay & Yanyan**; sister **Nene**; and grandchildren **Miggoy, Glo & Jimbo** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 19, 2002 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 9:00 AM Mass.

FILEMON "MOMOY" VILLAMAR, SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator
on May 15, 2002 at the age of 76.

His loving wife **AURING**; children **Chit & Ben Mecano, Cynthia & Eddie Aguila, Becky & Rashed Al-Hatllan, Evelyn & Lito Walter, Lizay & Pat, Au & Nestor Magayaga, Filemon Jr. & Prisca Villamar, Marivic & Jing Sarreal, Stella & Froilan Angeles, Marlon & Ted Villamar** and **Marlene & Ver Martin**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, brothers and sisters, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His mortal remains lie in state at the Villamar Residence, Abangan Sur, Marilao, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 18, 2002 at Marilao Memorial Garden after the 3:00 p.m. funeral Mass at the St. Michael the Archangel Parish Church, Marilao, Bulacan.

Our Dearly Beloved

"Mommy G"

JUANITA ANGELES GUERRERO

Peacefully joined our Creator on May 15, 2002
at the age of 84.

Her bereaved husband **Flavio**; children **Rosalinda Mapili, Siegfried, Wilma Rodriguez, Ivan, Clarissa Palanca, Fulvio, Michaela Lejarde** and **Joa Sangster**; children-in-law and grandchildren request for your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 19, 2002, at the Manila Memorial Park after the 3:00 o'clock PM Mass.

LEONILA "LILING" GOMEZ-BALLESTEROS

of Balut, Tondo

Peacefully joined her Creator on May 13, 2002 at the age of 76.

Her bereaved husband **Ricardo F. Ballesteros, Sr.**; children **Edward, Ricardo Jr., Jocelyn, George, Gilbert**, their spouses; grandchildren, brothers, sisters and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, 143 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 18, 2002 at Manila North Cemetery after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at San Rafael Church, San Rafael Village, Balut, Tondo.

> **Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.** Matthew 10:39

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
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Washington offers RP trade, not aid

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE UNITED States has offered to help the Philippines boost its economy through increased trade—not aid—as it seeks to further deepen its ties with one of its staunchest allies in the Asia-Pacific region.

In a speech before members of the Makati Business Club yesterday, US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone said the United States' interest in the Philippines was now at its peak since Washington shut down its military bases here in 1992.

Ricciardone said Philippine-US relations went into hibernation since the bases were closed because feelings and emotions got in the way of doing business between the two countries.

He said things changed because of two key events last year—the change in administration and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Ricciardone said US President George W. Bush appreciated President Macapagal-Arroyo's all-out support for Washington's all-out war against terrorism worldwide.

"You knew what side you were on, and this has special meaning for Washington," he said.

In boosting US trade and investments in the Philippines, Ricciardone said Washington would revive the US Trade and Investment Council, which had not met since 1989.

He said the United States was currently looking at the Philippines' request that its agriculture and fishery products be given greater access in US markets.

The Philippines already enjoys a $4-billion surplus with the United States, and American investors are the top source of capital inflows into the Philippines, he said.

Ricciardone said, however, that the United States also wanted the Philippines to open its market and liberalize its foreign equity policies to boost US investments here.

The United States has lined up at least $100 million in aid to the Philippines, the bulk of which has been earmarked to support a broad area ranging from poverty alleviation to environment protection in Mindanao.

Ricciardone said, however, that the aid that Washington was preparing was unlikely to reach levels realized when the United States maintained military bases in the Philippines.

Ricciardone told Philippine businessmen that the United States was not in the business of telling Filipinos how to run their lives or their economy.

He said the days of rent-giving and rent-taking relations between the two countries were over.

As tax collections plunge in Q1, BIR seeks lower GDP growth target

THE INTER-AGENCY Development Budget Coordinating Committee is studying a request from the Bureau of Internal Revenue to cut the government's economic growth target this year to 2 percent from a range of 4 to 4.5 percent.

The BIR is asking for a lower gross domestic product growth mark, as it wants to cut its collection target this year from P447.6 billion to P440 billion, or even lower, a ranking financial official told reporters.

The government's tax collection targets are set in line with economic growth indicators. Generally, a one-percentage-point cut in the GDP growth target means P5 billion less in revenue collections.

The finance official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Bureau of Customs would also ask for a cut in its collection target by as much P10 billion to P15 billion from P115.1 billion.

The BIR's collections from January to March this year were short by P12.88 billion from an expected P99.503 billion, while the customs bureau missed its P23.16-billion target by P20.701 billion.

The BIR believes that the government's economic growth assumptions fail to reflect in its tax collections.

According to the agency's records, income tax collections from corporations in the first quarter stood at only P16.09 billion against a target of P19.55 billion despite signs that the domestic economy was expanding.

Individual income taxpayers, meanwhile, only contributed P20.01 billion against a target of P23.07 billion.

The BIR said revenues from excise taxes were down by P3.8 billion, as liquor production and sales shrank 27.4 percent and 31.7 percent in the first two months of the year.

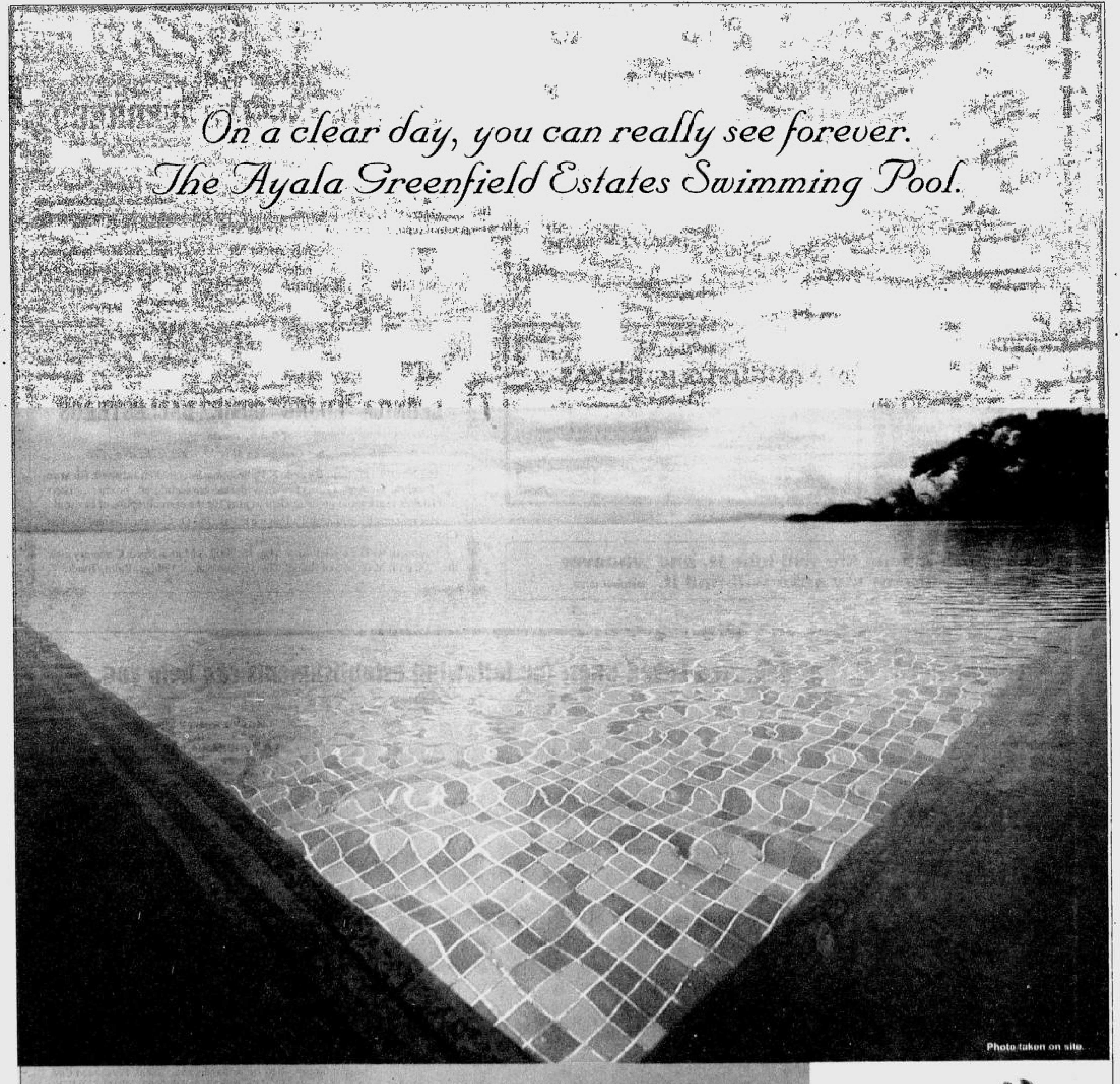
Petroleum production and sales fell by 25.8 percent and 14.2 percent, while tobacco production grew by only 2.8 percent and sales by only 5.2 percent.

These three products account for the bulk of the government's excise tax collections.

The BIR said lower interest rates also hurt its collections to the tune of P3.5 billion, as revenues from taxes on bank deposits slid by 71.6 percent, on insurance premiums by 55.7 percent and other percentage taxes by 10.4 percent.

One positive area in the BIR's report is a 14.6-percent increase in value-added tax collections.

The customs bureau, meanwhile, said its P2.3-billion shortfall in the first quarter was caused by a slowdown in imports. Imports fell by 25 percent, it said. ***Clarissa S. Batino***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BUSINESS*Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

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Are copy ads an endangered species?

By Roger Pe

THIS is not a feline story, about copycats. This is about copy ads, an endangered species that you don't see much of these days.

A few years back, multi-awarded creative director David Droga herded all his Saatchi & Saatchi Singapore copywriters in his room and asked each of them to do one thing for a month: conceptualize ads without writing a single word if they can help it. What on earth was he doing, someone violently asked? Making copywriting obsolete and making copywriters compete with art directors?

Droga knew that it was getting to be a fast- and ever-changing world. He thought copywriters should be more three-dimensional. He wanted them to become crafters of ideas rather than mere crafters of words. He knew that consumers are becoming more mobile, their attention span getting smaller each day and are reading less and less.

He wanted them to think visually, make them break communication barriers without unnecessarily mouthing words.

He wanted them to allow readers to experience ads "with less words but which speak a thousand words."

But he emphasized that doing visual ads is executional. One can go the visual or copy route either way to crack the brief. He told his wards that first and foremost, they are the masters of words, wielders of wits, unleashers of styles, kings of craftmanship, lords of metaphors, gods of syntaxes.

Some people in the industry are saying that visual ads are a worldwide trend. A fad that will ultimately replace textbook-heavy ads.

"We don't have readers anymore. We have thumbers, browsers and window shoppers," says Martin Cooke, creative director of Chiat Day New York.

'Life's too short to read body copy. Let's face it, life's too short even to read this newspaper," says Steve Henry, last year's Clio head of jury.

ARE/ C4

COULD YOU TURN THE OTHER CHEEK?

Now is the time for a new and improved dream

By Yoly V. Ong

I THANK you for the honor and the challenge that comes with each recognition. For me, a trophy or an award is not just a reflection of what a person has achieved or the proverbial pat on the back for good work. As it sits on the shelf or hangs on the wall, it also mutely poses the question: What else? Where do you go now? How do you top this one? And like the metaphorical bar as we pole vault through life, it is raised one notch higher, so you can stretch yourself for yet another goal. To put it in our lingo, I must now have a new, improved dream!

That's not a problem. We never run out of dreams. There's no burn out. It's always original. It's always ours. Dreams can't be scammed or plagiarized. They can be a source of inspiration and emulation for others, but the strategy we take for realizing our objective, the outcome we achieve and the effect it has on ourselves and the people around us—that's one of a kind, and we authored it. We are accountable for the consequences. It is part of our karma.

In 1984, the Creative Guild was a collective dream for some of us: Emily Abrera, Minyong Ordoñez, Sid Reyes, Greg Garcia and many others. The mission was for this group to raise the Philippine market's creative excellence, and provide a support and network for us, creatives. After all, the creative person, probably even now, is stereotyped as the irresponsible, egoistic, narcissistic, difficult, emotional, dysfunctional, adversarial, illogical (Feel free to stop me) . . . part of the agency.

So some sort of sisterhood (it's the dominant gender) was needed. It was the organization of rabble-rousing deviants that constantly challenged the establishment. The Creative Guild is an agent provocateur for change, alternating tough questions of "why" or "why not?" And even as egos clashed and competition with each other was fierce, there is supposed to be an underlying thread of understanding and respect accorded to battle-scarred front liners, whichever side you fought with.

So the challenge to each of you now, to Roger Pe and the board, is to ask yourself: Are you a mission accomplished or a work in progress? And as I found out here, the answer is less important than the question. In fact, more often we may never find the answers. But if we know what questions to ask, we have learned a lot. And I had to go to Harvard to master that!

Walang takot, sabi n'yo. Bilib ako d'yan. Ang pinapahiwatig n'yo ay tapang ng pag-iisip. Tapang na makipagsapalaran sa mga bagong kathang-isip na hindi pa nasusubukan at maaaring pumalpak. Tapang makipagtunggali sa mga kliyenteng takot sa anumang pagbabago at anumang makabago. Tapang na makawala sa anumang kahon na nagpapaliit ng mga ideya.

Walang Takot. Hindi uurong kahit may panganib. The courage for conviction is a little trickier than the courage for innovation. It took me years to understand the power we have in our hands. When ads like "Magapatuka Na Lang Ako Sa Ahas" or "Magpakatotoo Ka" become household words, we who have access to media must realize that we have gained access to the minds and hearts of the millions who are exposed to our ads. Thus we have the power not only to sell brands, but to shape values and morals, create wants and aspirations, affect behavior, change norms. We have the power to change perceptions. It is a terrifying responsibility that we must be aware of. The better we are at what we do, the bigger our obligation to use the power well. Who was it who said, "never for evil?"

In the end, the biggest fear is "Extinction without Distinction." Living a spectator life instead of a spectacular one is the worse cop-out. *Ang ma-dedbol na kulang sa pansin.* I guess our colleagues in heaven are free from that fear : Butch Uy, Rina Bartolome, Tony Mercado—*mga walang takot nating mga katoto na pumanaw man ay nabuhay naman nang may saysay, at walang kakulangan sa pansin.*

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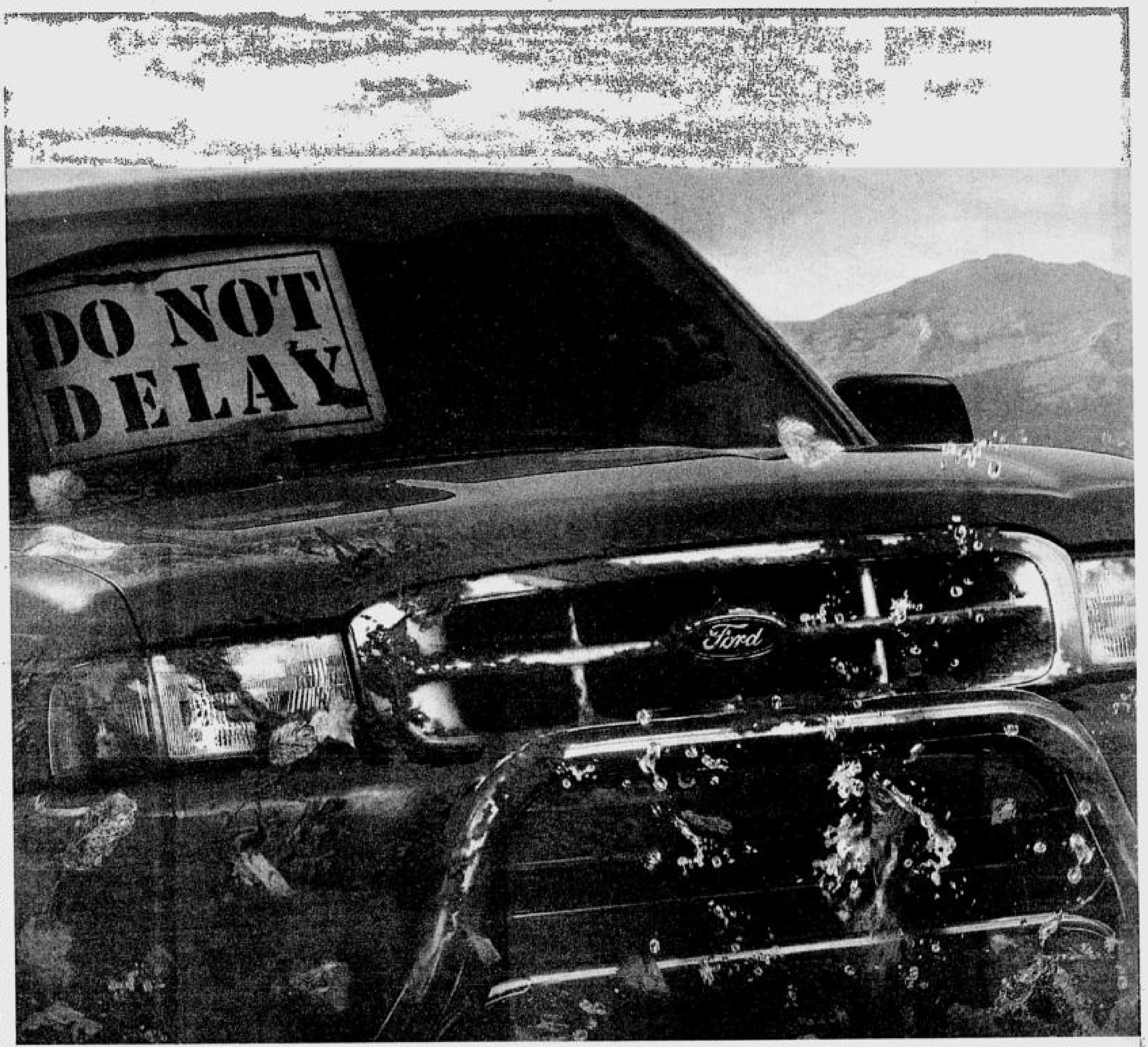

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Ranger Trekker 4x2	805,000	160,000		19,000
Ranger XLT 4x4	980,000	200,000		22,000
Ranger SVT 4x4	1,035,000	220,000		23,000
Explorer Sport Trac 4x4	1,550,000	400,000		34,000
F-150 SuperCrew (monotone)	1,599,000	400,000		35,000
F-150 SuperCrew (duotone)	1,610,000	400,000		36,000

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FIT FOR THE FUTURE

ESTHER TAN

Using physical fitness language to promote financial well-being

SUN Life Financial is using the language of physical fitness to promote financial well-being for the future.

For the whole month of May, Sun Life Financial will be in sports shops and gyms to promote its Fit for the Future, the company's new vehicle to provide financial freedom for Filipinos.

The program stresses the need for physical health while highlighting the more important but often neglected aspect of financial fitness.

Total fitness should really mean clean and healthy living, a conditioned body, peace of mind, and financial security.

While popular health hubs and sports shops, including Slimmer's World, Fitness First, Fitness International, Galleria Fitness, David's Fitness, Nike Stadium, Athlete's Foot, and Planet Sports, easily provide the first two, peace of mind through financial security is hard to come by without the help of financial services companies and consultants.

Through its "Fit for the Future" program, Sun Life Financial aims to provide everyone a chance to keep physically and financially fit.

"This program reflects our concern for our clientele whom we want hale and healthy, by getting them in tip-top shape physically and financially. We want to make sure that alongside building their muscles and strength, they are pumping up their finances as well so they can enjoy a truly worry-free life," said Sun Life of Canada (Philippines) Inc. president Esther Tan.

Sun Life Financial introduced the Sun Smartsaver, an insurance policy and investment instrument that gives attractive returns and pumps up one's savings.

The Sun Smartsaver, a US dollar-based, single premium endowment plan, matures on the 10th year. It offers guaranteed cash payouts at the end of the fourth, sixth, eighth, and 10th years and provides insurance coverage equivalent to 150 percent of the Face Amount in the event of premature death.

Corporate merger

TAX-FILES

By Fara G. Vargas
SGV & Co.

MERGER is the absorption of one corporation by another. The latter continues its existence while the life of the other (absorbed corporation) is terminated.

Consolidation is the union of two or more corporations into a single corporation.

For a merger or consolidation to be valid, the requirements under the law must be complied with and the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) must be secured. The approval of the SEC is the operative act that will validate the merger or consolidation. Pending such approval, the merger or consolidation has no legal effect.

A Bureau of Internal Revenue Ruling is required to confirm the tax-free nature of the merger or consolidation.

As a general rule, the entire amount of the gain or loss resulting from the sale or exchange of property is recognized and subjected to tax or claimed as a deduction, as the case may be. However, the exchange of property for stock, or vice versa, as a consequence of a merger or consolidation is an exception to the above rule.

A statutory merger or consolidation qualifies as tax-free under Section 40 (C) (2) of the Tax Code of 1997. Under the said section, no gain or loss shall be recognized if in pursuance of a plan of merger or consolidation, the parties to the merger or consolidation exchanges:

(a) Property solely for stock; or

(b) Stock solely for stock in another corporation; or

(c) Securities solely for stock or securities.

To qualify as tax-free under the above-quoted provision, the following conditions must be met. (1) there must be a merger or consolidation; (2) there must be a plan of merger of consolidation; (3) the parties to the merger, must, as a general rule, exchange property solely for stock, pursuant to the plan of merger; and (4) the merger must be undertaken for a bona fide business purpose and not solely for the purpose of escaping the burden of taxation.

The non-recognition of gain or loss for tax purposes is intended to encourage corporations in pooling, combining or expanding their resources conducive to the economic development of the country.

Tax implications

The tax implications of the merger or consolidation are as follows:

1. There is no income tax and value added tax (VAT) on the transfer by the absorbed corporation of its assets and liabilities to the surviving corporation in exchange for the latter's shares of stock. Any unused input tax belonging to the absorbed corporation shall be absorbed by the surviving corporation. However, there may be an instance where the surviving corporation will no longer issue shares of stock in exchange for the assets and liabilities of the constituent corporation. Is the tax deferred character of the merger affected? The BIR ruled that in case of a parent-subsidiary merger, where the parent corporation is the surviving corporation, the tax deferred character of the merger is not affected by the non-issuance of the surviving corporation of its shares of stock in exchange for the assets and liabilities of the absorbed corporation since on the effective date of the merger, the absorbed corporation (subsidiary corporation) is wholly owned by the surviving corporation (parent company) (BIR Ruling No.86-2001 dated Oct. 4, 2001)

2. As a consequence of the merger or consolidation, the surviving corporation shall issue shares of stock to the stockholders of the absorbed corporation and necessarily, the latter's stockholders will surrender its shares of stock to the surviving corporation. The BIR had occasion to treat the above as two transactions subject to Documentary Stamp Tax, to wit: (1) original issuance of shares by the surviving corporation to the stockholders of the absorbed corporation, and (2) surrender by the stockholders of their shares of stock in the absorbed corporation to the surviving corporation in exchange for the latter's shares of stock. As to transaction mentioned in (1) above, a DST under Section 175 of the Tax Code of 1997 is imposed. The BIR in subjecting the transaction mentioned in (2) above reasoned that the shares of stock of the absorbed corporation are necessarily absorbed by and transferred to the surviving corporation in exchange for the latter's shares of stock, such that said transfer shall be subject to DST imposed under Section 176 of the Tax Code of 1997. (BIR Ruling No. 002-2001 dated Feb. 2, 2001 and BIR Ruling No. DA-018-2002 dated Feb. 12, 2002)

3. The transfer of assets by the absorbed corporation to the surviving corporation will not be subject to donor's tax since there is no intention to donate on the part of either or both parties and the transaction is effected purely for business reasons.

4. Since excess minimum corporate income tax (MCIT) and Net Operating Loss Carry Over (Nolco) are among the rights, privileges, property and/or interest of the absorbed corporation, then the surviving corporation may carry forward and credit the excess MCIT and Nolco balances against its normal income tax liability for three immediately succeeding taxable years. (BIR Ruling No. 137-99 dated Aug. 31, 1999)

In the same ruling, the BIR allowed the surviving corporation to claim the Nolco balance of the absorbed corporation as deduction for the next three years because the local entities to the merger transaction belong to a single parent company following the merger of their respective parent companies abroad. In BIR Ruling No. 065-2002 dated Aug. 1, 2001, the BIR also allowed the aggregate Nolco of both parties to the merger or consolidation to be claimed by the surviving corporation as a deduction from its gross income considering that after the merger there is no substantial and effective change in ownership of the surviving corporation since more than 75 percent of its paid-up capital continues to be held by or on behalf of the same person, the parent company of both parties to the merger or consolidation.

This NOLCO application as deduction from the gross income of the surviving corporation has been clarified in Revenue Regulations No.14-2001 dated Aug. 27, 2001. As explicitly provided in the Regulations, a surviving corporation (transferee/assignee) shall only be entitled to claim the same as deduction from gross income provided that the shareholders of the absorbed corporation (transferor/assignor) gains control of at least 75 percent or more in nominal value of the outstanding issued shares or paid-up capital of the surviving corporation as a result of the said merger, consolidation or combination.

Effects of tax-free merger

The statutory merger has the following effects:

1. The constituent corporations shall become a single corporation which, in case of merger, shall be the surviving corporation designated in the plan of merger; and, in case of consolidation, shall be the consolidated corporation designated in the plan of consolidation;

2. The separate existence of the constituent corporations shall

CORPORATE/ C3

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Private sector takes tougher stance on IPR

THE proliferation of pirated VCDs, detergents, clothes and other commercial items has sparked a modern-day crusade among government agencies and legitimate companies in the country. Sometimes, most of these people caught by the law claim that they are not aware that the products they are selling are fake or even the law about patents and trademarks. Whether the first claim is true is up for the court to decide. But for the latter claim, ignorance of the law is no excuse. So what do regular retailers and wholesalers need to know about "Intellectual Property Rights?"

What is IPR?

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) aims to safeguard manufacturers and other owners of intellectual goods and services by granting them certain time-limited rights to control the use of those products. Because of this, more and more companies right now are out to defend and safeguard their corporate identities even if it means expensive legal action. But what is IPR and how does one company reinforce and impose its industrial rights over unscrupulous businessmen?

IPR refers to creations of the mind: inventions, literary and artistic works, symbols, names, images, and designs used in commerce. There are actually two categories of IPR: industrial property and copyright. Industrial property includes inventions (patents), trademarks, industrial designs and geographic indications of source. Copyright, meanwhile, includes literary and artistic works such as novels, poems and plays, films, musical works, artistic works like drawings, paintings, photographs, sculptures and architectural designs.

Corporate merger

From page C2

cease, except that of the surviving corporation;

3. All the rights, privileges, immunities and franchises as well as properties whether real or personal of the absorbed corporations, shall automatically go to the surviving corporation;

4. The surviving corporation shall be responsible and liable for all the liabilities and obligations of the absorbed corporation in the same manner as if such surviving corporation had itself incurred such liabilities or obligations; and

5. The absorbed corporation will be automatically dissolved by operation of law, without further act. As such there is no need to wind up the absorbed corporations' affairs or liquidation of its assets because the surviving corporation automatically acquires all the rights, privileges and powers as well as liabilities of the absorbed corporations and the surviving corporation would continue the combined combination business.

Top adman quits high-paying post; now earns from making puppets talk

By Betty Uy-Regala

AN ADVERTISING man who keeps odd hours poring over production of materials that will be presented to clients the next day, Publicis-AMA creative director Ronaldo Carcamo, risked the stability his job provided and the stature his post commanded for a seemingly fleeting passion: ventriloquism.

Carcamo, a multi-awarded creative writer of the advertising industry and literary circle, turned this interest into a vocation and for five years developed the Laff and Learn Kids' Show Ventriloquism Program, a product primarily aimed at promoting values education to children.

He markets it through events he organizes. Carcamo uses three of his four puppets in a show, choosing from Kenet (the little boy), Ka Lario (the grandfather), Dodo (a bird), Rangu (an orangutan) to accompany his regular spiel that includes the magic board and participation of "human puppets" whom he asks to wear his half mask.

The 35-year-old Carcamo discovered ventriloquism through his first love, magic. Both are works of illusion. In one of his trips to Gary Lising's Joke Box hunting for the latest trick gadget, he stumbled upon the "Ventriloquism for Today" book and studied the craft.

"I saw a potential. Nobody is doing it here. I told Jun Urbano whom I deal with a lot for television commercials then that I wanted to be a ventriloquist but had to settle for soft puppets (similar to what Batibot uses) because I can't find wooden puppets in the Philippines. He lent me Kiko, his father's wooden puppet which was more than a 100 years old. *Nag-practice ako doon,*" he recounts.

Carcamo's resolve to turn his ventriloquism program into a full-time business was strengthened when his friend Kenneth bought him a wooden puppet in the United States two years back. Kenet, his first puppet, was named after this friend.

Soon after, magician Lou Hilario gave him two additional puppets. Carcamo named the possum Lulu and the grandfather Ka Lario in honor of the giver. To complete the act, he bought two more puppets, Dodo the

TOP/ C5

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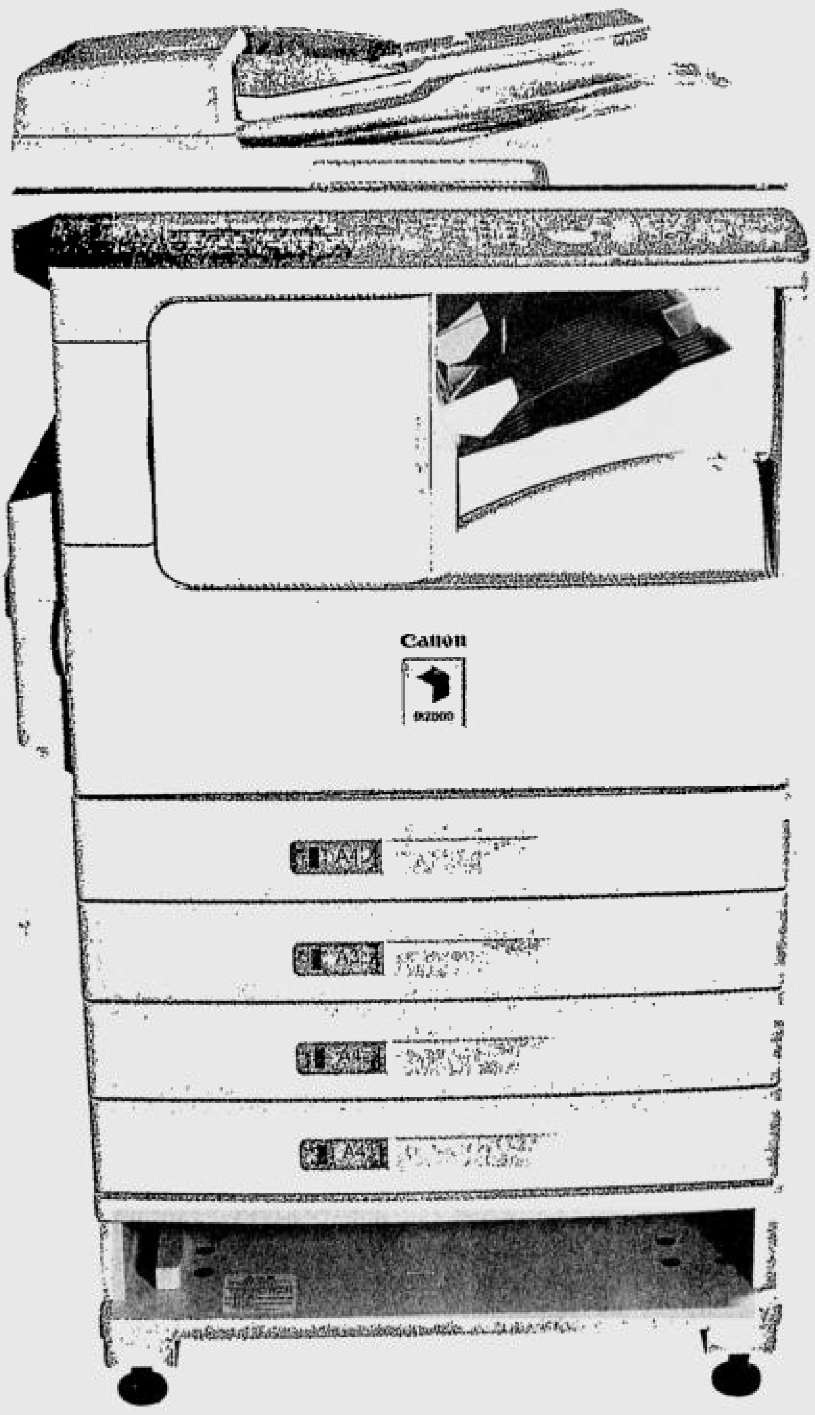

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Interactive TV advertising seen gaining traction

LOS ANGELES—After years of hype, major advertisers are finally starting to invest in interactive TV, which lets viewers shop, e-mail and play games but has yet to take hold commercially, experts said on Tuesday.

"People are putting money into interactive advertising and it's a new phenomenon we've been seeing in the past six months," said Scott Newnam, president of GoldPocket Interactive, which provides software to companies like Turner Broadcasting and HBO to create and deliver interactive television programming.

Interactive TV, which is designed to allow viewers to take more control of how they watch TV, as well as offering services similar to those found on the Internet, has been slow to gain a mass audience and remains fragmented by competing technical standards among cable providers.

Last month, the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences announced a new Emmy award for interactive TV programming, but even the medium's boosters see the real growth in the market still five years in the future.

Even so, Newnam said some sponsors are starting to invest now, concerned that more people are simply switching channels during commercials on traditional television—diminishing the effect of blanket advertising.

"Advertisers are very focused on reaching the consumers and how to get their message across. In the past six months, we've seen a lot of sponsors like Volvo, Audi and Domino's Pizza," Newnam said.

Interactive ads lure viewers

By sponsoring an interactive game that is synchronized to a show being broadcast, advertisers can lure viewers into staying tuned through the commercial, he said.

For example, viewers of Comedy Central's "Win Ben Stein's Money," show during a two-month trial period could score extra points in the interactive game if they answered questions following a commercial such as: "How many cheesy breadsticks were featured?"

Comedy Central is a joint venture of CBS owner Viacom Inc. and media giant AOL Time Warner Inc.

Interactive television, which remains in its commercial infancy, enables audiences to interact with the programs either through their PCs or on their television screens through digital set-top boxes.

Jack Myers, an analyst who tracks interactive television, said he expects the industry's advertising revenues to rise from $37 million in 2001 to $60 million in 2002 and about $3.8 billion by the end of the decade.

Most of the growth will occur after cable TV operators roll out next-generation set-top boxes that incorporate personal video recorder and interactive capabilities, which are not expected to gain broad market acceptance until 2006 and 2007, he said.

Lack of common standard

One big stumbling block is the absence of a common TV industry standard. While cable and satellite operators have installed millions of set-top boxes capable of delivering interactive TV, the potential audience remains fragmented.

Also, several efforts have already been abandoned due to high costs and the perception of limited interest, experts said.

"I think from an advertiser's point of view, there's a strong appetite but there are a series of barriers to entry in a lot of key markets where there are various technologies being deployed," said Jasper Smith, who runs the content arm for OpenTV Corp., another interactive TV software provider, whose investors include AOL Time Warner, EchoStar Communications Corp. and Sun Microsystems Inc.

If those barriers can be overcome, the appeal of interactive advertising is clear, analysts said. In addition to the medium's promise of getting viewers to watch commercials more closely, it could also provide information on potential consumers by tracking their preferences and activities.

"The opportunity for advertisers is going to be enormous," said Keith Reinhard, chairman of DDB Worldwide, an advertising agency. *Reuters*

Equal opportunities to small businesses via SME.com.ph

THE WAY people do business in the past decade has greatly changed that commerce quickly took on a global scale with the whole world becoming the market for any business out there.

The reason? The Internet, a global network of networks that has allowed all kinds of products and services to be shared and offered throughout the world with just a simple click of the mouse.

Planters Development Bank (Plantersbank), the country's leading bank for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), had long been eyeing the potential of the valuable resources of the Internet for its SME community. The competition in the World Wide Web arena brings with it good news to SMEs who, with the power of technology, can now be seen and heard just as much as the big businesses.

To tap into the Web's endless possibilities, Plantersbank forged an alliance with the World Bank's private investment arm, International Finance Corp. (IFC) and eVicor, an e-commerce technology provider based in Silicon Valley, San Francisco, USA, to establish a joint venture company called PDB SME Solutions Inc. Through PDB SME Solutions Inc., Plantersbank can now offer to SMEs infrastructure, communications and Internet Solutions, primary of which is its e-service known as SME.com.ph membership.

SME.com.ph aims to take full advantage of the equal opportunity that the Internet offers. In its 10-point benefit plan, SME.com.ph exclusively provides its members the support and services needed to maximize the Internet's benefits, including creative services and website hosting, domain name registration and e-mail services.

As a business solutions provider, it also offers simple, cost-effective and innovative solutions such as SME-friendly accounting packages, payroll system, and other productivity business applications that will enhance business potential and much-needed competitive edge for the SMEs.

Members are also given access to useful small business information on finance, international trade, entrepreneurship, enterprise development, and the economy along with tips and advice from SME experts through SME.com.ph's Resources Section.

Those who avail of the SME.com.ph membership can benefit from the activity and programs of the various foreign and local partners of PDB SME Solutions Inc., including chambers of commerce and industry, trade associations, multilateral agencies, and other developmental institutions.

SME.com.ph is optimistic that SMEs today have already recognized the benefit of being "online." This is shown in SME.com.ph's membership directory wherein clients have already signed in with businesses ranging from furniture and embroidery to shipping and organic farming.

In this fast-paced age of information, it won't be long before other SMEs will jump at the chance to participate in the Internet economy especially when the potential of returns is so great. Indeed, SME.com.ph foresees a gradual change in attitude on technology with entrepreneurs aggressively pushing for a connected—and prosperous—community of SMEs not only in the Philippines but globally as well. When that happens, SME.com.ph will be there.

SME.com.ph is also a Membership Program especially designed to establish a community of businesses who can do commerce in the Internet, and share information, resources and other benefits under one roof.

'Different philosophy' drives McDonald's trendy partner

NEW YORK—British sandwich chain Pret A Manger prides itself on selling hand-made, natural food in modest portions that could suit a dieter's lunch menu.

So it comes as a bit of a shock for many patrons when they learn that the trendy shops with the French name that translates to "Ready to Eat" are partly owned by fast food giant McDonald's Corp., better known for Big Macs than baguettes.

"No! I didn't know that," said Iris Ponce, her eyes wide with surprise as she finishes eating lunch at one of Pret A Manger's nine Manhattan sandwich shops.

It's just one of a handful of smaller restaurant chains McDonald's has invested in that offer new fast-food eating concepts, trying to stay in touch with changing consumer tastes. And Ponce, a 35-year-old bank officer, doesn't seem like one of McDonald's traditional target customers.

"My first reaction is 'Oh no, not McDonald's.' Hearing that makes me question the quality of the food. But the sandwiches here are very fresh and good, so I'll come back," she said.

Ponce has chosen a tomato and brie sandwich, one of over a dozen offerings ranging from chicken Caesar to egg florentine—and not a burger in sight on the store's self-serve racks.

Many Americans share Ponce's weariness with hamburgers, french fries and other fattening fast food, a trend McDonald's seems to recognize as it struggles with slow growth in its traditional restaurants.

As part of its effort to find new growth, the company owns and operates some 650 Boston Market locales and 200 Donatos Pizzerias. It also owns a majority of Chipotle, a Mexican-food joint with nearly 200 US outlets.

Two weeks ago, McDonald's signed a joint venture agreement with Fazoli's, a fast-casual Italian restaurant. The company said its interest in Fazoli's, as with the other restaurants in its Partner Brands business, is to boost McDonald's sales.

Analysts view the Partner Brands as a key growth vehicle for McDonald's which is struggling to reverse two years of disappointing results amid sluggish US sales.

"It's a wise decision for them to go out and find additional growth opportunities," said Robertson Stephens analyst Paul West. "It's a natural step for them, as they are still opening new restaurants around the world, but they're facing more limited growth in the US."

Passionate about food

For its part, Pret A Manger has won an undisclosed amount of financial backing to pay for its restaurant chain's growth, and the chance to work with the world's pioneer of fast-food retailing.

"We couldn't ask for a more experienced partner," said Pret's co-founder Sinclair Beecham.

Beecham, who started the chain with a friend 16 years ago and sold its one-third stake to McDonald's in February 2001, says that being backed by the world's No. 1 hamburger chain is not a liability, despite the qualms of consumers like Ponce.

"Our businesses are not connected. We have complete management control of the business," he said. He adds: "They'd suffocate us if they wanted to run us."

There are contrasts between the two, judging from their interior designs and menus. One offers a fast food staple known the world over, and the other serves the latest in sandwiches and wraps.

At the Pret A Manger that recently opened on 42nd Street, rows of juices, sandwiches and sushi lined a self-serve, stainless steel refrigerated stand. Jazz and salsa music played overhead as people grabbed lunch before the 3:30 p.m. close.

The trend fast food chain says its "passionate about food."

As if to underscore its differences with traditional rivals like McDonald's, it says it avoids "obscure chemicals, additives and preservatives common to so much of the 'prepared' and 'fast' food on the market."

Fast roll-out

With 120 stores in Britain, mostly in greater London, Pret A Manger plans to open two more stores in New York this year on top of the nine it now operates. In Asia, it recently opened the second of six planned shops in Hong Kong and plans to its first opening in Tokyo this year.

Pret's expansion reflects a strategy targeting large cities with many office workers, but Beecham said Pret is in no rush to open in other US cities. "We want to focus on New York and get it right before expanding elsewhere," he said.

Given McDonald's lackluster financial performance and limited growth opportunities at home, the fast-food company is trying to add excitement through different formats in its hamburger chains.

On the same day that Pret a Manger opened its newest store in Manhattan, McDonald's cut the ribbon on a new mega-restaurant in a shopping mall in Columbus, Ohio, Among other things, the restaurant features a karaoke booth, indoor park and a stand-alone "McTreat Center" dispensing ice cream and cookies. Its design is meant to evoke a small town center, and provide a family-friendly restaurant for all ages, said a McDonald's spokesperson.

Many analysts expect that Pret A Manger and McDonald's other Partner Brands will become increasingly significant earnings contributors to the fast food giant in the future.

In quarterly earnings last month, McDonald's said systemwide sales from the Partner Brands segment rose 13 percent to $254.7 million, the biggest increase among all its businesses.

However, there are no plans for McDonald's take a larger stake in Pret A Manger , said Beecham, who considers himself "very lucky" to have their backing and expertise. But Beecham doesn't want his chain to become too much like its giant US partner.

"You can't knock McDonald's for being a big, successful company," he said. "We just don't share the same philosophy." *Reuters*

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RONNIE Sebastian, country manager for Indonesia and the Philippines of Motorola-CGISS Indirect Business with Jack Yap, director of distribution-South Asia, Motorola Commercial, Government and Industrial Solutions Sector (CGISS) Indirect Business

Will users opt for two-way radios?

MOTOROLA is confident on the strengthening Philippine economy and is bullish about the prospects of further economic growth in the country in the next two years.

This was according to Jack Yap, director of Distribution-South Asia, Motorola Commercial, Government and Industrial Solutions Sector (CGISS)-Indirect. Yap made the remark during the recent Philippine launch of the new Motorola GP2000 Alpha Series Radio, described as a modern and efficient two-way radio that is ideal for users who require a highly cost effective communication tool.

"The launch of this new product is a testament to Motorola's confidence in the Philippines as a potent market for our innovative products," he noted. "We are especially upbeat about the bright prospects of big growths in the service, manufacturing, communications and tourism industries where the two-way radio is used extensively."

According to Yap, the GP2000 was specially developed with the Asian users in mind. "Designed and manufactured in Asia, the GP2000 radio is ergonomically styled and compact to fit Asian hands. The model's easy-to-use features also make the GP2000 a viable choice for many two-way radio users in the Philippines." He added that the Philippines is one of the first markets in the Asia-Pacific region to roll out the new Motorola radio product.

"The Philippines is witnessing a continued growth in the two-way radio market. We are confident that the new Motorola GP2000 two-way radio will be well received by businesses looking for a cost-effective and reliable communication tool for their operations," Yap said.

Aside from Yap, two other regional Motorola executives were present at the launch activity. Ronnie Sebastian, country manager for Indonesia & Philippines of Motorola-CGISS Indirect Business, and Harjeet Rekhi, marketing manager Motorola CGISS, also flew in from Motorola's regional headquarters in Singapore to provide support to the roll out of the new product innovation in the Philippines.

Tapping on the benefits of two-way radio technology, Motorola's GP2000 provides instant one-to-many communication at a push of a button—eliminating the need for users to repeat instructions and messages.

The product's key features include clear audio, 99 channels, front panel programming, average 8-hour battery life, private lines, battery saver, user-friendly navigation, and 8-digit alpha numeric display.

Motorola's GP2000 radio is compatible with the company's new ergonomically designed and cost-effective Mag One accessories series as well as existing GP68 accessories—providing users with greater flexibility and customization.

Are copy . . .

From page C1

Indra Sinha, an Indian creative writer, however, says "good ad writing flows like music. It has a logic that is part technical, part rational, part emotional. It's also easy to tell where it's not working.

As a writer, your words go out into the world to millions of people and change things. If you care about awards and money, you are playing for the smallest available stakes."

Are visual ads (advertisements that use the power of imagery) showing the exit door to copy ads? Do we have a dearth of writers who will romance the consumers with words peppered with wit, compelling proposition in the headline and engaging treatise in the body copy?

Mario Monteagudo, chief creative officer and managing partner of Creative Partners Inc. wrote one of the Philippines' best loved copy ads—"Ulyanin Na Ang Ermat, Matalino Pa Rin Ang Airpot."

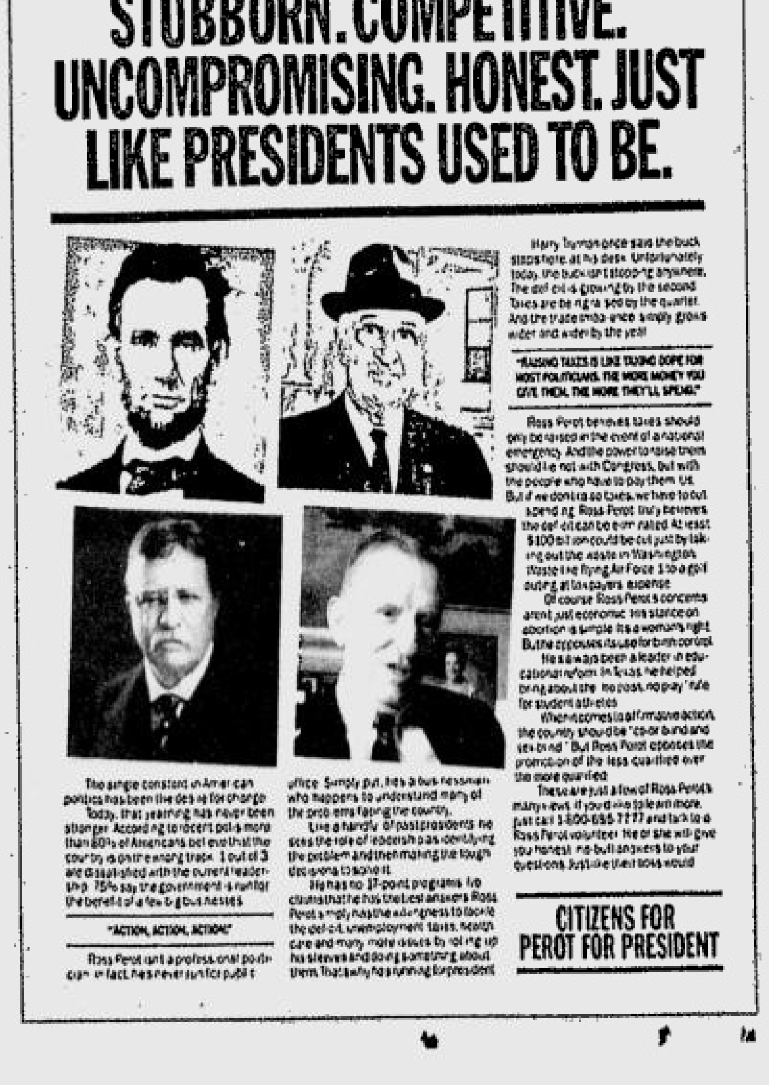
David Guerrero wrote one of my favorite English copy ads—Ogilvy & Mather's want ad in 1998. It won an Asian copywriting craft award, in London and in the One Show.

Has anyone seen a great Philippine made-copy ad lately?

Now . . .

From page C1

Award from the Creative Guild with equal amounts of gratitude and trepidation. *Sana nga, lahat tayo ay sumulong nang walang takot. (Speech given during the Creative Guild of the Philippines' Lifetime Achievement of the Year Awardee, last month at the Ads of the Year Night, RCBC Auditorium.)*


STUBBORN. COMPETITIVE. UNCOMPROMISING. HONEST. JUST LIKE PRESIDENTS USED TO BE.

"RAISING TAXES IS LIKE TAKING DOPE FOR MOST POLITICIANS. THE MORE MONEY YOU GIVE THEM, THE MORE THEY'LL SPEND."

"ACTION, ACTION, ACTION"

CITIZENS FOR PEROT FOR PRESIDENT

Top adman quits . . .

From page C3

bird and Rangu the orangutan.

Before leaping into uncharted territory, Carcamo narrowed the risk involved by conducting a pilot test of the program for the spectators' and sponsors' acceptance.

He gave a show to his very first audience, his 4-year-old daughter Audrey who loved it and presented the concept using his puppets to his friends in the industry who unanimously agreed that the program is indeed economically viable.

His first major project titled "Laff and Learn sa Manila Zoo" presented environmental awareness and wildlife preservation to elementary students who came in school tours.

Carcamo's former clients at Publicis-AMA and Basic Advertising that carry product lines for children sponsored the show. It had a successful run for a month. Carcamo earned P50,000 for this project comprised of eight sessions with each session taking up 30 minutes. Not bad for a four-hour job.

After the Manila Zoo gig, Carcamo struck a deal with Museo Pambata and got a vitamin product as sponsor. He and his puppets discussed nutrition on Thursdays and Saturdays of the school year. His third major deal was a grant from the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) where he performed his "Peace na tayo" piece for 10 private schools in Metro Manila.

Carcamo is grateful that aside from being able to earn from something he loves to do, he has become an instrument to bring joy to the afflicted. Psychology students of the Ateneo de Manila University invited him to do a show for the chronically ill patients of the National Children's Hospital for their laugh therapy project.

"*Grabe 'yung experience ko.* When I was setting up, there was a mother crying because her child was having a seizure. *Iniisip ko kung paano ko papatawanin sila,*" he says.

He postponed his performance and set a new schedule. When Carcamo came back, some of the children who were there before have since passed on. On his second visit, he was brought to the Tuberculosis ward. "*Tuwang-tuwa sila* especially when they saw Kenet. They were able to identify because they're of the same age."

Carcamo recently came up with Total Recall, a memory training program he conceptualized after he identified a need for the program among students and professionals.

"Mind or mental magic is another aspect of magic," he says.

His first taker for Total Recall was a school in Lipa. The teachers, who witnessed how the students were able to memorize 30 random items after the training, were satisfied with the results. He presented the program to two banks and is awaiting their approval. The banks will weave it in their regular training program.

Unlike the life he used to lead when he was still an adman, Carcamo now enjoys the luxury of time. He spends most weekdays at home with wife Yolly and daughter Audrey cooking up new ideas for him and his puppets. His weekends, on the other hand, have become the busy days. He is fully booked for shows at kiddie birthday parties.

"When I was still in the corporate world, my work was my life because we're always doing overtime. *Madalas inuumaga pa ng uwi pag may mabilisang campaign na ginagawa.* Now, my life is my work.

Through ventriloquism, I am able to reach out to children and impart relevant messages," he says.

Whenever he's reminded of his experience at the National Children's Hospital, he feels that he made the right decision of quitting while at the top of his profession. "The biggest risk people can make in life is not to take risks."

Local mining industry ranks lowest in 'ethical investment'

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The United States-led war on terrorism—which needs metals for bullets, choppers, tanks and other war materiel—will certainly boost the mining industry after it suffered a slump since the mid-1980s, according to a visiting British mining analyst.

But the mining industry, the analyst said, remains at one of the lowest ranks of what is now called "ethical investment."

"If you are an investor and you go home and look at your kids in the eye, you don't want to feel guilty for having invested your money in an industry that kills people," said Geoff Nettleton of the London-based Minewatch, which monitors trends in transnational mining worldwide.

Investors would rather invest in an industry that wouldn't bug their conscience such as possibly a toothbrush or an Internet company, he told a national conference on mining here last week.

But it's not a question of ethics that investors are shunning the mining industry.

Investors would like to invest their money in a venture that guarantees them quick and sure profits, and the mining industry, Nettleton noted, no longer does so for various reasons.

With the various disasters the mining industry has caused in various parts worldwide, including the Philippines, local communities in recent years, he said, have learned to face up to even the mining giants such as the British Rio Tinto.

Nettleton cited hard facts which, he said, the transnational mining industry cannot simply dismiss as "propaganda campaigns" of what the industry calls "misguided" and "romantic, anti-development" activists.

He said Philippine local communities are not alone in experiencing disasters such as Marcopper-Placer Dome's mine spill in Marinduque's Boac River in 1996 or the deadly impact of a Lepanto mine tailings dam in Mankayan, Benguet, that collapsed after a typhoon.

"From Romania to China, Spain to West Papua, tailings dam collapse, cyanide spills and mine wastes are dumped into rivers and into the seas—all at a frightening regularity," Nettleton said.

Having become aware of international standards and potential support, local communities have learned to seek redress and reparation.

Nettlèton cited the Bougainville people, who have brought a case under the Alien Torts Claims Act in the United States courts against the Rio Tinto.

With investor confidence on the mining industry adversely affected, the World Bank came to the rescue of the industry.

Transnational mining corporations, according to Nettleton, were able to lobby the World Bank to prod its client-countries to liberalize their mining industry.

This, he said, allowed transnational mining companies unrestricted and unregulated access to new unexplored areas.

A result of this transnational lobby is the controversial Philippine Mining Act of 1995, which grants transnational companies tax holidays, full repatriation of profits and wide areas of exploration and operation.

"So you shouldn't be surprised because the Philippines is not the only country with such kind of law (1995 Mining Act)," he said.

"Some 80 countries (all of them World Bank borrowers) have or are still processing the same kind of Mining Act you have."

Both the Mining and Geo-sciences Bureau and the Philippine Chamber of Mines have lauded the 1995 Mining Act as a much-needed "shot in the arm" to boost the ailing Philippine mining industry.

The new law has invited into the country mining giants such as Rio Tinto (British), Newmont and Newcrest (both American), Western Mining Corp. and BHP (both Australia-based), Placer Dome (Canadian) and other companies.

Despite their enticing offers to hinterland communities such as school buildings, roads, and hospitals, these multinational corporations had a hard time getting the consent of community folk.

Indigenous and rural folk would not want their communities to go the same fate that Marinduque suffered in 1996. Other communities, where big companies would like to explore and operate, don't consider the mined-out areas in Benguet as development models either.

In the Philippines and other countries, the transnational mining industry faces what corporate officials themselves call an "image" and "credibility" problem, which has adversely affected potential investors, Nettleton said.

To regain investor confidence in the mining industry and to fix its image, Nettleton said the mining industry launched a multimillion-dollar global public relations campaign called the Global Mining Initiative or GMI.

From the GMI came new slogans such as "responsible and sustainable mining" and "good corporate citizens."

But citing how his family's home in a British mining community would get flooded down the drain when he was still a child, Nettleton said "a mine hole is a hole" whether it is in the United Kingdom or in the Philippines.

It was his way of saying there is no such thing as "sustainable mining."

Part of GMI is to paint the mining industry as indispensable because every gadget that people now use—from toothpaste to computers and mobile phones—is mined.

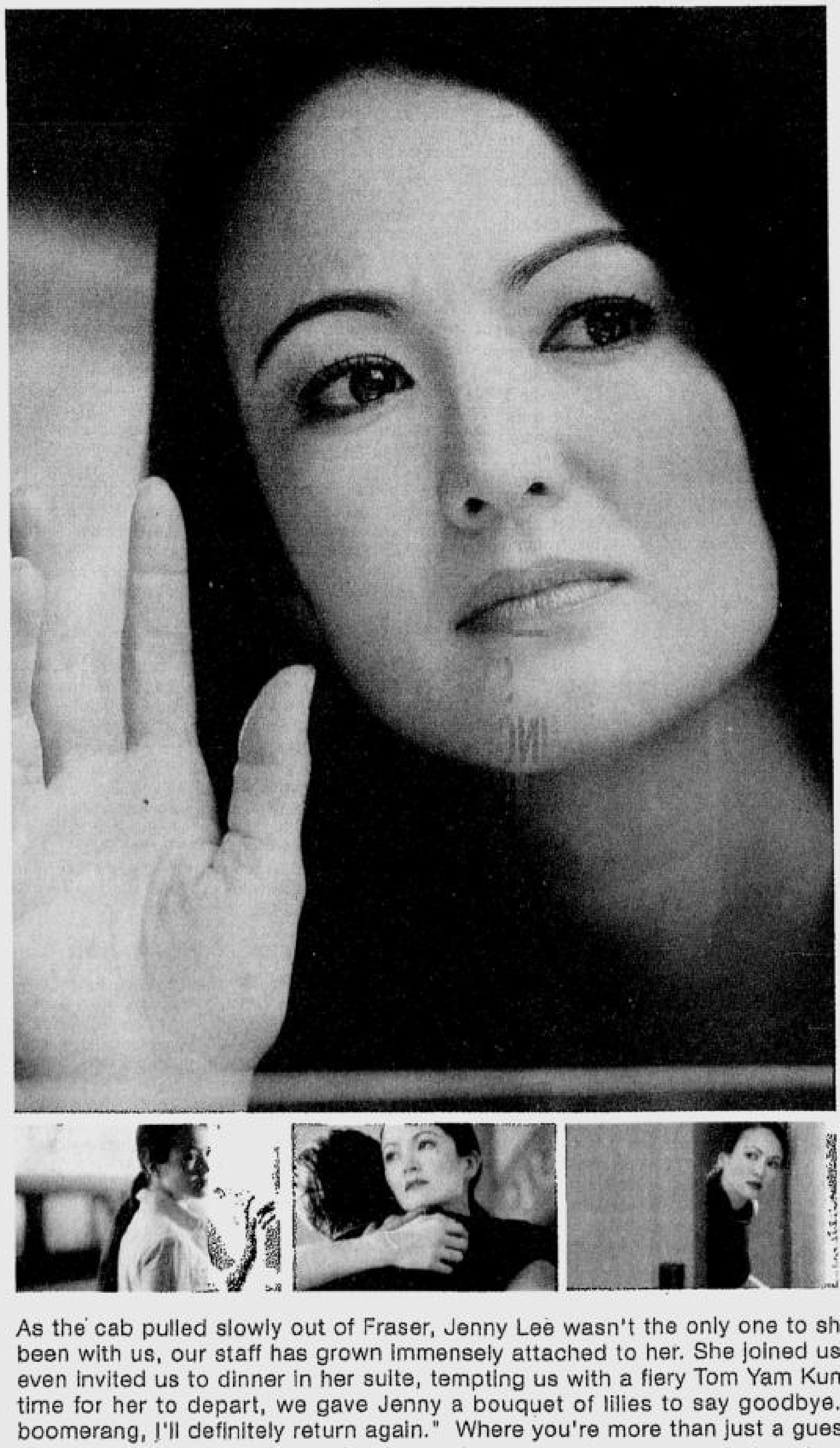
But there is actually an oversupply of gold, which goes mostly to jewelry, according to Antonio Tujan of the Manila-based research think tank IBON Databank.

The problem is that even with the oversupply of gold, transnational mining companies would like to dig more gold, he said.

To produce a simple gold ring through open-pit mining, tons of earth have to be bulldozed, according to the US-based Project Underground, which monitors the mining industry.

Multinational companies which manufacture disposable gadgets for the throw-away lifestyles of consumers all contribute to an unsustainable and wanton way of exploiting the world's resources, said lawyer Marvic Leonen of the non-government Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center.

Leonen proposed a no-nonsense "recycle, reduce, and re-use" program which, he said, would help reduce the demand for metals and halt the unnecessary transnational mining activities that bring conflict to indigenous and rural communities.



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LEAVING HOME,
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As the cab pulled slowly out of Fraser, Jenny Lee wasn't the only one to shed a tear that morning. In the seven months that she'd been with us, our staff has grown immensely attached to her. She joined us for afternoons of tennis, trips to the local markets and even invited us to dinner in her suite, tempting us with a fiery Tom Yam Kung that she learned in our cooking classes. When it was time for her to depart, we gave Jenny a bouquet of lilies to say goodbye. She gave us a note that said, "just like an Australian boomerang, I'll definitely return again." Where you're more than just a guest.

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Intel celebrates technology festival at e-Lounge

FOR THE ENTIRE month of May, Intel, the world's largest chipmaker, will hold the Intel Technology Festival, a digital celebration filled with exciting contests, imaginative activities and challenging games for children and adults alike until June 1 at the Glorietta e-Lounge in Ayala Center, Makati.

In cooperation with Ayala Center, the country's leading mall expert, the Intel Technology Festival will feature only the latest technologies such as the latest Compaq PCs running on powerful Intel Pentium 4 processors, broadband connection from GlobeNet, Microsoft Windows XP and MS Kids edutainment software, and the newest printers and cameras from Canon, the world's digital printing and imaging expert. The Intel Technology Festival showcases how the PC has become the center of the digital world, with a greater number of people—and even kids—now finding more sophisticated and innovative uses for the PC.

Until May 18, Intel will be giving families and groups of friends the chance to share their photos and greetings with loved ones by creating their own digital postcard and posting them online. Their postcards can also be submitted as entries for the chance to win prizes in the Digital Postcard Festival.

A variety of digital games and educational activities featuring the Intel Microscope, Intel Sound Morpher, Microsoft Kids educational software such as Magic Schoolbus and Microsoft Dinosaurs will be held during the e-Lounge Kids Festival from May 19 to June 1.

Kids also have the chance to participate in special afternoon info sessions featuring Natural Sciences conducted by Museo Pambata on May 25. Kids 7 to 12 years old can learn and enjoy the beauties and mysteries of Nature through the Intel Pentium 4 PC and the Intel Microscope.

On June 1, e-Lounge celebrates the last day of the Intel Technology Fiesta and will conduct an all-out afternoon and challenges, contests and exciting prizes. Kids will be tasked to guess hidden objects in the Intel Microscope Challenge or play around with sounds to create the funniest sound with the Intel Sound Morpher. Kids also have the chance to show their brainpower in the Microsoft Kids Trivia Quiz.

Interested participants can register in any of the activities at the Glorietta e-Lounge, or inquire from Intel Technology Festival attendants. The Glorietta e-Lounge is located at the 3rd level of Glorietta 3 and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. for Ayala shoppers and is free with a P200 purchase receipt from any Ayala Center store.

Keep your skin healthy this summer

SUMMER is the best time of the year to show off that new bathing suit and the sexy curves that you arduously worked on for the past months. It's also the best time to get that tan. But summer is not all that. It's also about learning to keep your skin healthy despite the hot, simmering days.

Summer can hit your skin with a double whammy of increased dryness due to water, wind and sun, plus increased oil production from sports and heat. Everyone should remember that everyday one goes unprotected from the sun may mean instantly losing moisture in the skin.

Premature aging of the skin results from lack of moisture and overexposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays. Although sunscreens shield the skin, these are not enough. There's still a need to religiously apply lotions to make sure that moisture is trapped in the skin, nourishing it deep down.

Maintaining soft, healthy skin is one's biggest task during summer. It pays to work doubly hard because if the skin is not well-cared for this summer, it shows.

Here are some tips on how you can help your skin glow during the summer.

Drink lots of water to hydrate your system and your skin as well. Eat Vitamin E and A-rich foods, as these minerals are the skin's best friends. A healthy diet is one key to healthy skin this summer. Load up on fruits and vegetables as much as possible. Apply lotion liberally on the hands, legs and feet after bathing or showering, as these are the most exposed parts of the body during summer, aside from the face. Doing so while the skin is damp will maximize the moisturizing benefits.

During the summer, a good lotion is a handy answer to dryness caused by overexposure to the outdoors. New Vaseline Lotion has Triple Lipid Complex that replenishes the skin's natural and essential lipids that soaps wash away, making the skin soft, supple and healthy to the touch. With Vaseline Lotion, you're sure that your skin is moisturized and nourished deep down with tender loving care, so you get healthy glowing skin that shows.

'Motorevolution' heats up

MOTOROLA'S Personal Communications Sector (PCS) launched three innovative mobile phones in an event dubbed "Motorevolution" held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City recently.

William Tan, PCS country manager of Motorola for Singapore and Philippines, and who is based in Singapore, personally graced the event. Business partners, friends and colleagues in the telecommunications industry witnessed the birth of an innovation together with the Motorola family.

Motorola unveiled its newest and hottest product, the V70, the mobile phone that would rewrite the rules in style and technology. V70, also known as the "swinging blade", has an incredible swivel motion of the flip that can turn 360 degrees. This is the one that would set you apart because its futuristic shape is unlike anything you've seen out in the market. The latest Motorola mobile phone captured the "power-look" with its sleek design, jewel-like case and a dimension of 94 mm x 38 mm x 18.3 mm and weight of 83 grams.

Viewing display in the dark is no hassle with the "swinging blade". The black, round and easy-to-read display with white letters on a dark background provides easy viewing of text messages and quick caller ID screening. Its translucent MotoGlo keypad with soft blue radiance provides trouble-free dialing and texting even in the dark.

The new V70 is a feature-packed mobile phone with advanced GPRS capability that allows users to surf the Internet, manage social life and keep in touch with business partners and loved ones. Users can also check the latest on news, sports, movies, and just about anything on the Internet through its advanced WAP 1.1 Micro browser. Other features are real-time chat, SMS, voice-activated call, vibra alert, games and built-in calendar and phonebook that can be synchronized to a computer or PDA (with optional data connection kits).

To match Filipinos' versatile lifestyle, the new V70 mobile phone has 32 built-in standard tones and 32 user-composable alerts. It can accommodate conference calls, call transfer and mute calls. Interchangeable bezels in satin, brushed and chrome let users customize the look of Motorola V70. Keypads are also replaceable to fit user's mood, available in midnight and ceramica colors. Accessories include hands-free, one-touch headset, FM radio, charger with lock, and sync kits.

SEEN at the launch of the Motorevolution were (from left) Motorola customer service engineer Jun Campos, Inquirer VP for advertising Pepito R. Olarte, Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Motorola's marketing manager for consumer solutions group South Asia Ellen T. Suarez, country manager of Motorola's personal communication sector for the Philippines and Singapore William Tan, PCS service manager Au Rios and Kenny Nuyda, Inquirer's AVP for advertising.

Joining the heat of the Motorevolution are two other models, the Motorola T190 and V66. Motorola T190 is for the hip crowd that boasts of a distinctive and stylish design, which also addresses clients' demand for longer text messaging capability. With its capability to accommodate 765 characters in a single SMS message, the longest in the market today, it enables users to easily convey their message in just one send.

The Motorola T190 can also spice up SMS messages with its interactive animated icons. Send any of the 25 pre-set animated icons like flowers or smiley faces together with a personalized note to brighten up a loved one's day. You can also keep up with friends and buddies through T190's group messaging that can be sent to 10 recipients in just one send.

While the V66 is Motorola's sleek and smallest tri-band phone for busy people and will enable them to call anywhere in the world, it is the ultimate mobile solution for demanding trendsetters. It is also the world's first GPRS mobile phone with 1Up/4Down links or Class 8 GPRS, providing users "always on" high-speed Internet access of up to 53.6 kbps.

Motorola's V66 tri-band capability allows it to operate across GSM 1800 and GSM 1900 virtually, virtually connecting users anywhere in the world. It also has currency converter, a message center and a phonebook that stores up to 500 entries. Main menu sequence could also be customized to meet users' necessities.

Tan says these new Motorola models are results of continuous technological research and innovation to satisfy and meet clients' diverse requirements.

MOTOREVOLUTION is a collection of Motorola's newest mobile phones (from left) the ultra-cool 'swing blade' V70, the hip T190, the stylish tri-band V66. All have designs and features that appeal to the techno-savvy Filipinos.

ELLEN T. SUAREZ

WILLIAM TAN

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PLDT, CISCO SIGN MOU

PLDT recently signed a memorandum of understanding with Cisco to develop Internet protocol (IP) technology training in the Philippines. The agreement includes the Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) and Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP) preparatory courses. PLDT will work with Cisco to become its learning partner and will eventually provide Cisco-certified courses. Both companies will cooperate in the setup and development of an IP laboratory in PLDT TelTEC, Mandaluyong City. Shown during the signing ceremonies are (from left) PLDT training and career development senior manager Alexander Kibanoff, PLDT HR group SVP Ricky Vargas, Cisco regional sales manager Noel Coronel and Cisco PLDT-Smart group sales manager Robert Rojales.

BEAUTIES VISIT CLUB MANILA EAST

Club Manila East hosted the candidates of Miss Philippines 2002 in their swimsuit competition recently. Club Manila East has been a choice venue of various events organizers in conducting their summer activities, what with its huge swimming pool, covering almost one hectare. Club Manila East can easily provide a scenic backdrop to the elaborate production numbers of the events. Club Manila East is a seven-hectare leisure complex with a business conference hall, an exciting water theme park, and an equally impressive golf driving range 500 meters off the Manila East Road. The conference/social hall can accommodate as many as 1,000 people. The resort is located at Km. 24 Manila East Road, Taytay, Rizal—only 25 minutes away from Ortigas Avenue. For more information, call 660-2805/06 or 660-2801.

BITS & Clips

Insam's medical director in TV show

CATCH a glimpse of Insam's medical director Dr. Charlie Mendez this Saturday, May 18, from 7 to 8 a.m. as resource speaker in Channel 7's "Kapwa Ko, Mahal Ko", the long-time running public service, health-oriented show hosted by Manang Rose. Learn from Mendez as he tackles hepatitis B, one of the major causes of death in the world today. In the Philippines, there are about 500,000 chronic hepatitis B sufferers, and most of them are not aware that they are infected. About a third of these are expected to develop serious liver disease which may lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer if not managed properly. So don't be ignorant about this dreaded disease. Mark May 18 on your calendars now.

Training courses in microfinance

OVER the past 20 years the microfinance industry has emerged in response to the lack of access to formal financial services for most of the world's poor. As microfinance institutions grow and become more business-oriented, the institution loses its ability to track down what is happening in the field and thus unable to manage its portfolio better. The Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest (CGAP), based in the World Bank in the District of Columbia, in cooperation with Punla Sa Tao Foundation, is bringing the course titled "Delinquency Management-Interest Rate Setting and Financial Analysis" from May 20 to 25 at the Asian Institute of Management. The faculty of Punla-CGAP courses is composed of experts and practitioners in the field of microfinance from AIM and other microfinance institutions. Interested institutions with microfinance programs for the poor are encouraged to call Jane Ilejay or Jay Ganchero at 928-1257, 928-1109, or 0919-2492087.

3rd Suncon fun race set

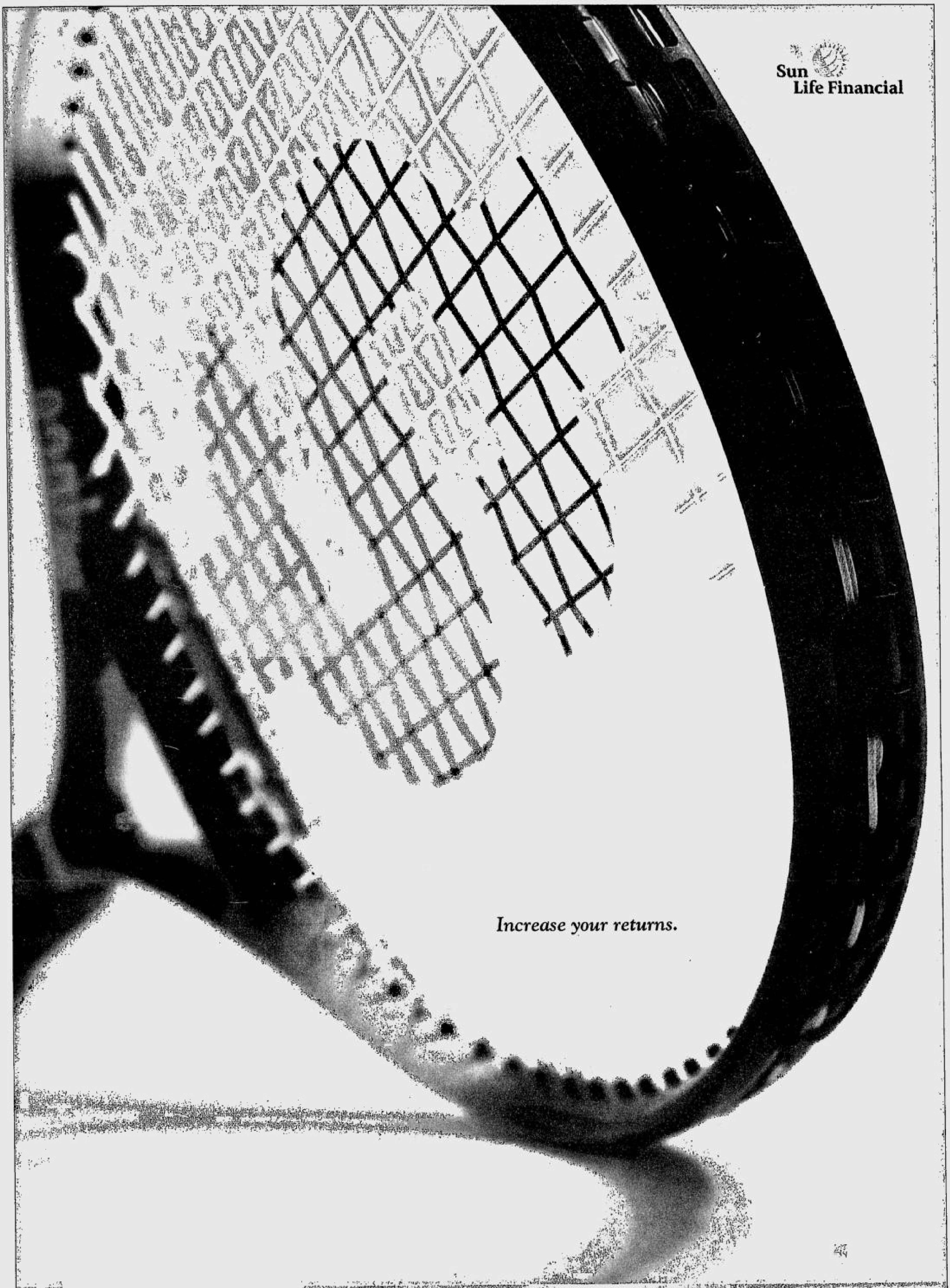
MEN'S GALLERY Corp. will mount the Suncon 3rd Summer Invitational Fun Race on May 19, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Quezon City Memorial Race Track. This whole-day family affair will highlight the Suncon Remote Controlled Car Race, where RC enthusiasts can pit their skills with amateurs and professionals alike. Suncon, one of the leading RC cars in the country today, has fully functional 1/10 to 1/12 scale body frame design copies of the original Formula One (F1), Dune Buggy and Off Road 4-wheel drive Monster Truck race cars, which can accelerate up to 6 meters per second at top speed. The fun race is presented by Wave 89.1, Energizer, Gadgets Magazine, and Center for Pop Music. Major sponsors are Faber Castell, WG&A Superferry, Art Cakes and Kolin Home Appliances. For more information, call Men's Gallery Corp. at 412-9818, 700-8310 and 412-0784 and look for Joji or Marlon.

Canon-JI photography workshop

CANON Camera, under its exclusive Philippine distributor Super East Asia Enterprises Inc., and Philippine Daily Inquirer's Junior Inquirer launched a joint activity, the summer photography workshop for kids aged 7 to 12, and will be held at the Kids @ Work in SM Megamall for two consecutive Saturdays, May 18 and 25 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. The first workshop was held on May 11. Professional photographer Ibarra Deri of the Federation for Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc. will provide interesting topics like shooting techniques and style, and the art of Paintography. The Canon-JI summer photography workshop for kids is made possible through the support of Super East Enterprises Inc., Kids @ Work, Lactum, Kameraworld, Nestle Chocolait and Henlin. For inquiries on this and other Canon activities, call Projectionals at 630-2780, 630-7531.

AMCI outdoor summer kids' camp

WOULD YOU love to shower your kids with gifts? Why nor give them a gift this summer that will last all summers of their lives? Let your children participate in the AMCI Mountaineering Club's outdoor summer kids' camp from May 25 to 26 at the BSP grounds in Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna. Veteran mountaineers from the AMCI Mountaineering Club (formerly Ayala Mountaineers Inc.) will be teaching participants aged 5 to 12 years the rudiments of mountaineering in a hands-on trekking and camping experience emphasizing safety, camaraderie, and the environment. Interested kids and their parents must attend a pre-camp meeting on May 19 at a venue to be determined. For more information, call Susan Garcia at 0917-7935240, or Bong Lacerna at 811-4272 to 73.



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Trend Spotting

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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso ◍ Subsection Editor Marge C. Enriquez

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Jesus Lloren is the fresh blood

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San

I WALKED away from the **Jesus "Jojie" Lloren** fashion show at the NBC Tent that muggy Friday night smelling fresh blood. At last.

For some time now we've been waiting for the changing of the guard in Philippine fashion, thirsting for young blood in this high-profile arena, for a blast—or even a whiff—of fresh air. The landscape has become stale, if not suffocating, since the glorious years of the '70s and the '80s, when Manila fashion was yielding surprises one after the other, most of them of genius caliber. Richer neighbors Hong Kong and Singapore were just struggling on their feet where design aesthetics were concerned.

In the past few years, the fashionistas and especially the fashion media (the legit) were like bloodthirsty audiences watching well-hyped gladiators in the arena, ready with their applause or standing ovation. The applause came all right for victors at curtain call, but quite often it would turn out, the applause sprang more from hope for a new design genius, rather than fulfillment from a sustained genius. In short, soon after the applause died, the audience would realize that it wasn't all that well deserved, that the hailed conquerors couldn't deliver in the long run, didn't pass the test of time.

Now came Jojie who's considered a young blood because he had yet to peak and had kept a relatively low profile since he returned from Paris two years ago, where he won the Young Designers Competition and trained for a year in the august Ecole de la Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne. (By the way, all this happened through the efforts of the Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines, which is continuing its search for fresh talents to support this year.)

Deviant

Jojie showed 30 pieces, no more, no less—certainly small by fashion gala standards. But his show was deviant not because of the quantity but because of the format he chose. Instead of a fashion show's conventional structure, where the ensembles progress from daywear to evening wear, and are linked by a design theme expressed through colors, fabrics, silhouettes and orna-

JESUS/ p.D2

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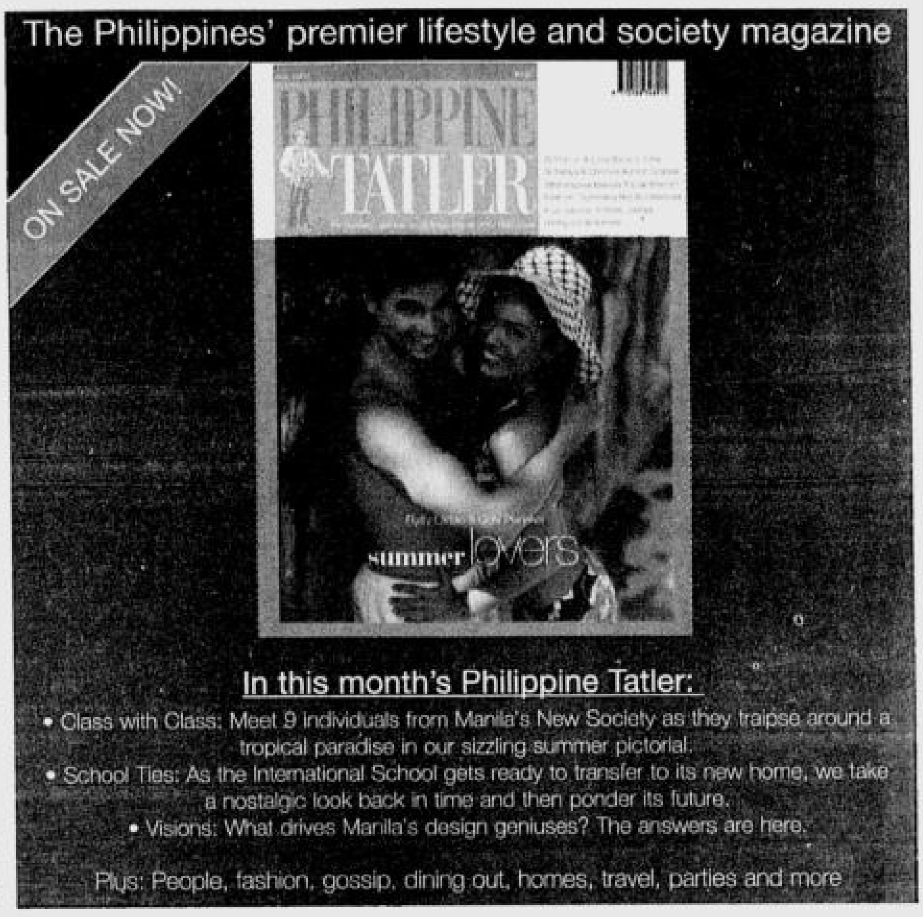

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• Class with Class: Meet 9 individuals from Manila's New Society as they traipse around a tropical paradise in our sizzling summer pictorial.
• School Ties: As the International School gets ready to transfer to its new home, we take a nostalgic look back in time and then ponder its future.
• Visions: What drives Manila's design geniuses? The answers are here.
Plus: People, fashion, gossip, dining out, homes, travel, parties and more

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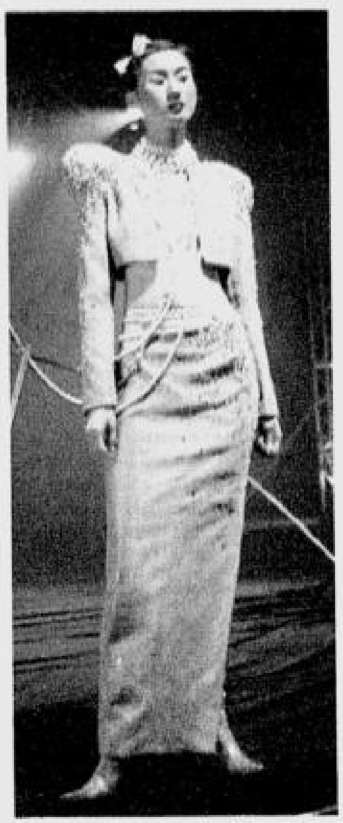
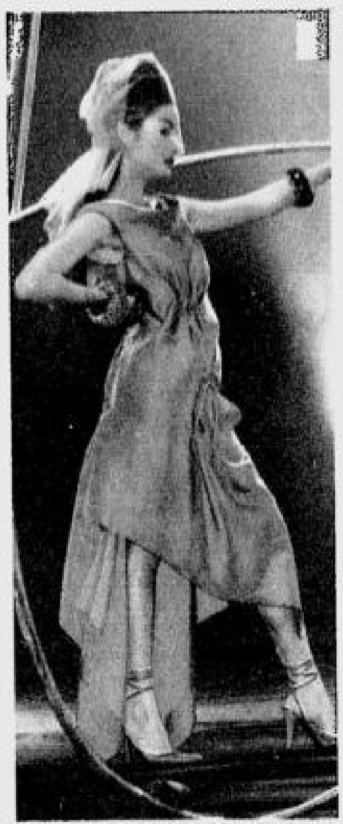
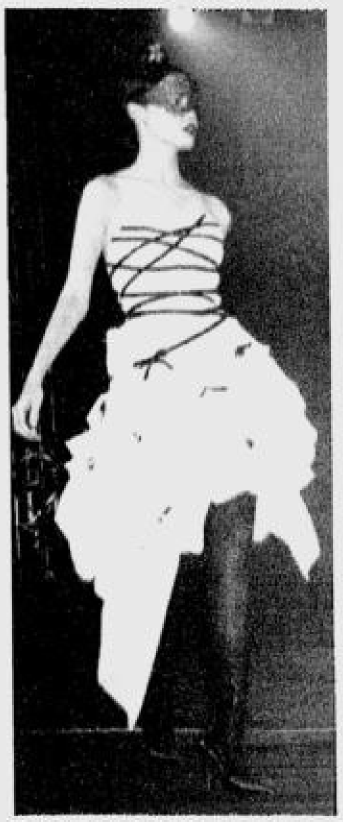
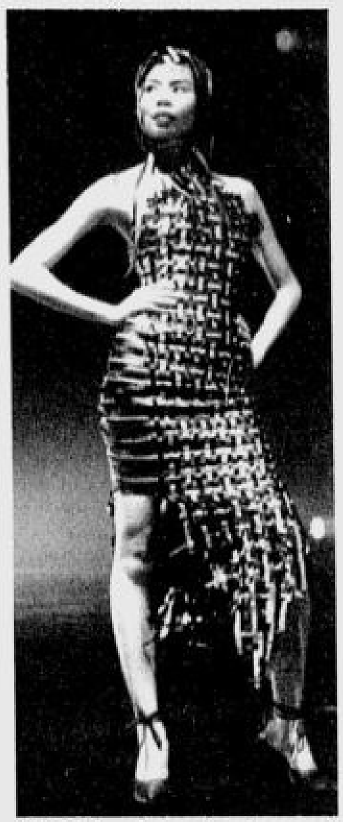
Will he lead the changing of the guard, at last? This guy has given Philippine haute couture a shot in the arm


LLOREN'S main thesis is about distorting the body. This two-piece suit was inspired by the Chanel suit of the '80s, replete with exaggerated shoulders, pearls and beads.

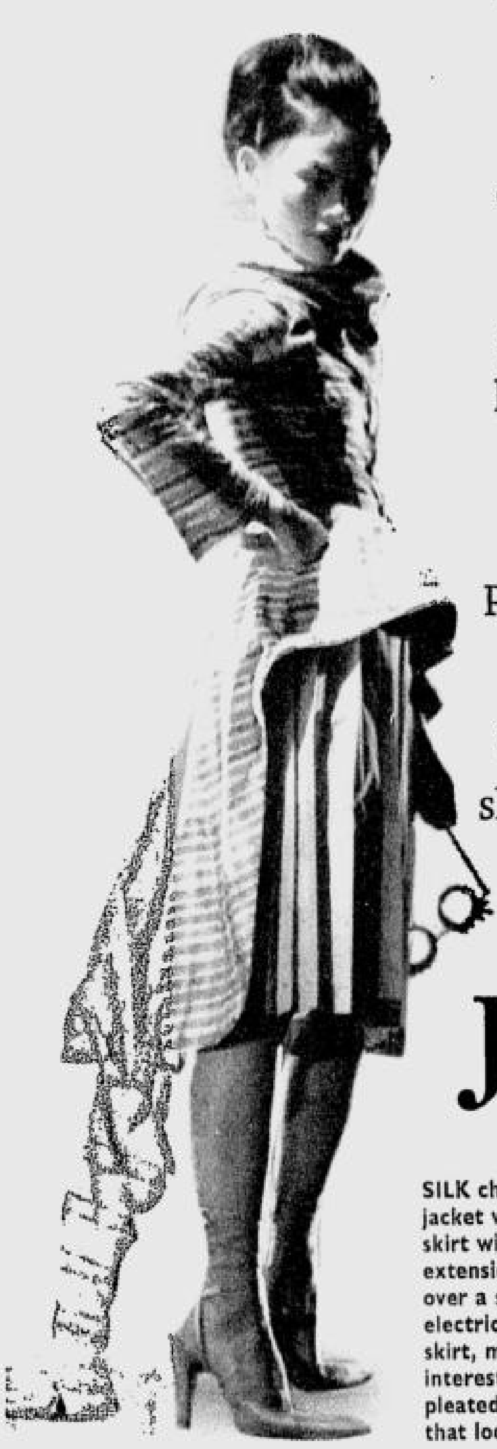

RELAXED DRESSING. This silk dress, which is easy on the body, is given shape with pleats and faux jewelry.

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA


BONDAGE MEETS ROMANTICISM. The silk organza dress with lots of tucks for a frou-frou look is contrasted by dark ribbons.


LLOREN makes a visual pun out of the lowly frayed floor mat. This dress is made from woven strips of bias with padded hips and unfinished look on the shoulderline and hemline.

Jesus Lloren is the fresh blood


SILK checkered jacket with peplum skirt with extensions. It goes over a silk polyester electric-pleated skirt, made interesting by a pleated panel insert that looks like a tail.

From page D1

mentation, Jojie presented each ensemble as a complete statement by itself, independent of the next one, so that each piece was virtually a show in itself.

As fashion shows go, Jojie took a paradigm shift. That was a gamble before an audience that has known no other format but the regular day-evening-one-prevalent-look formula. The daring move was surely abetted by the fact that his producers—**Ariel Lozada**, **Michael Sallentes** of Not Enough Circuses—had always disdained conventions, bored stiff by them in fact. Director Ariel saw no need for the traditional runway and instead elevated the audience's seats for a good view of the show on the ground, where the models were tracked only by strategic lighting as they wove their way around the glinting steel linear props.

This layout, however, didn't grab your attention away from the clothes. You were made to size up each number mainly because each was different from the previous or succeeding one. You didn't want to miss anything.

In 30 pieces, Jojie brandished what he learned in haute couture Paris. He learned a good deal apparently.

Intricate construction

First, his construction was intricate and painstaking; you appreciated the difficulty of that as you realized that Jojie did various eras—from the Op Art '60s, the shifts of the '50s, the structured clothes of the '70s, to the Romantic here and now. He was confident enough to attempt the construction methods of those eras.

Yet his were no Collezione copies; he gave each era, each ensemble, a twist. Each piece had the feel—not the literal look—of a fashion era, and it was up to the audience to discern that feel from, say, a pouf here, or a padded shoulder there. An example was an off-white silk below-the-knee dress—the balloon dress to us he calls the "slouch dress"—with a double-raised neckline, extended shoulders. The master stroke was what appeared like a pleat running down the back, opening up as the model moved, revealing not skin but the back of the same continuous fabric. It was a master stroke of construction that evoked the elegance of the '50s.

Or, there was the tomato red silk blouson with an open back to reveal a narrow waistline (a take on the blouson era). He also had a purple long coat with a short back peplum, a bustle bursting out of the back peplum—a take on the peplums of the '70s. All this manifested an astute yet sparing use of construction details to drive home the design message.

Second, he showed respect for silhouette and correct proportion—he didn't get too carried away enough as to produce clutter and confusion. You saw clarity of mind here, in the way he saw a silhouette through. An example was the brown and black baby-doll dress with long derriere slightly raised by a bustle, its sleeves gathered and full. This was a favorite among the designers in the audience. He also had a three-piece pants ensemble—the shirt with ruffled collar, pleated leg-of-mutton sleeves held by a pleated cummerbund and the brocade hip-hop pants held by a suede belt on the hips.

Third, he pushed the limits of design and ornamentation. Some would call this avant-garde, others deconstruction. We think this was sheer imagination in full play. For example, he produced a body hugger in the mode of a Herve Leger that only a wisp of a body like that of model **Raya Mananquil**'s could fit into. As fabric, he used satin tapes in aqua, brown and black, wove them around the body with its bare shoulders and—this was the surprise—over padded hips. The result was a body flat up front and on the back, but with hips inordinately protruding on the sides. You wondered how all this was sewn together, if he did any sewing at all.

Favorite

Another example was a clear favorite because it was so intricately executed you had to examine it backstage to see how it was done. It was a fuchsia silk organza dress, the organza wrung to create the crinkled effect, then draped around the body, tucked at certain points and shaped on one side by rows of crystal beadwork. The collar twisted down into a sleeve.

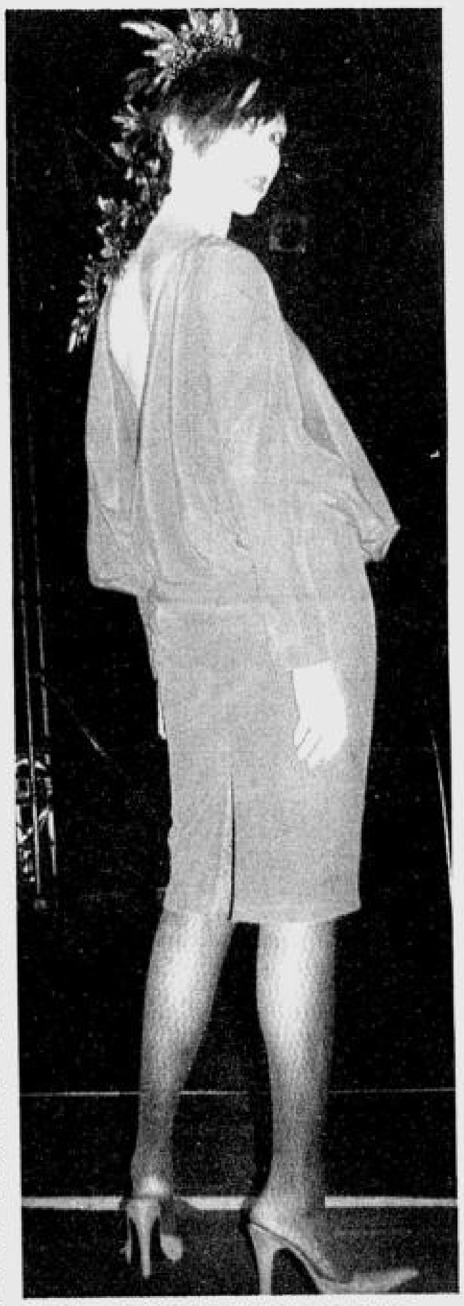
He also had a green silk sheath dress, pleated and held by trompe l'oeil or illusion brooches—in one-piece fabric.

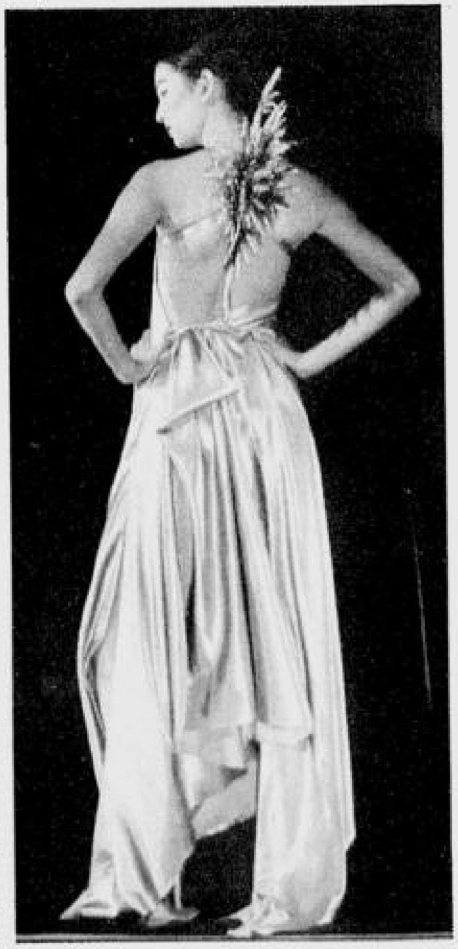
Colors? Don't bother defining them. He used them as he pleased—the bright fuchsias, purples, oranges, reds to hot yellows and corals. Each piece followed a distinct color palette. Yet—and this was Jojie's achievement—the overall result wasn't visual confusion.

Early on, the audience got the drift that each piece was made to stand on its own design parameters and eras. And, if the audience was discerning enough, it would have noted the thread running through this—the unified statement the designer was making: he was emphasizing body parts, no matter what era the clothes came from.

It was either a highly structured shoulder, pad

JESUS/ p.D4


BLOUSON WITH A TWIST. This dress emphasizes the waist.


CHARMEUSE is draped on the model to follow her body form. A gold protrusion on the back is in keeping with Lloren's thesis of body distortion.

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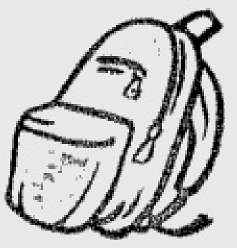

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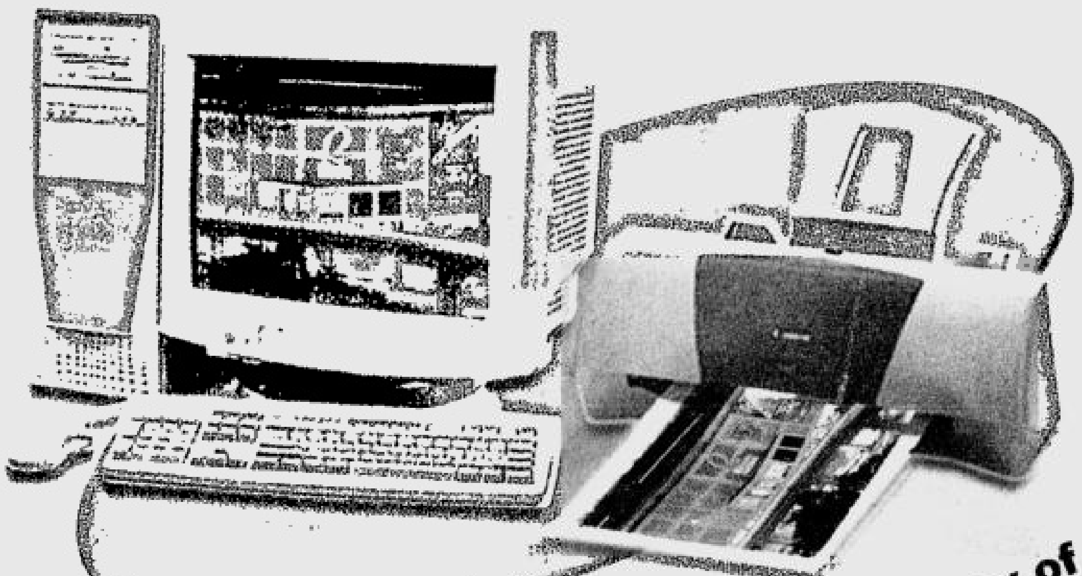

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ROBINSONS GALLERIA *ROBINSONS PLACE* MANILA, NOVALICHES, IMUS, CEBU, BACOLOD, ILOILO *ROBINSONS* METRO EAST *ROBINSONS TOWN MALL* LOS BAÑOS *ROBINSONS STARMILLS* PAMPANGA

Jesus Lloren is the fresh blood

From page D2

ded hips, a bustled-up back. He knew what design features to use to convey this message—a leg-of-mutton sleeve, a peplum, a pouf skirt, among others.

This is as good as it gets, where Philippine haute couture is concerned at this point. This designer, who'd been at it since 1988 but was hardly noticed, dared to show how well and how confidently he could execute haute couture at a time when Manila had all but forgotten the term and when there's hardly any occasion to turn haute couture into a marketable craft.

Will Jojie have a market for these haute couture clothes? Do we have enough balls and gala nights to wear them to? (**Imelda Marcos** is retired.)

Of course, he'd have to translate these numbers into commodities his clients would buy. But I doubt if he did these 30 pieces to sell, exactly as they were, in the market.

He did them to prove what he could do. And we did see. The guy can design and construct haute couture. Moreover, he didn't give us copies; he gave his own ideas.

That's the fresh blood we've been waiting for. Now we wait to see if Jojie Lloren can lead the changing of the guard.

Pregnant in 'Sex'

Sarah Jessica Parker is pregnant and feels glorious about it, we read. The full term runs right smack into the final episode of the series "Sex and the City" so there's no hiding her condition. So will she slip out of those body huggers and into blousons and biggies? How do the Jimmy Choos and Manolo Blahniks support a budding baby? Sarah is size 0; now she's one of us—at last.

Many nights the past few weeks we found ourselves at Mati at Rockwell, once with **Pitoy Moreno** and **Lulu Tan-Gan**, another time with **Anton San Diego** and **Maurice Arcache**, still another with **Katrina Legarda**. Each night we'd get amazed how Mati gets the crowd—the A-list young and old. Sitting out there al fresco is just like watching the social-wattage register on parade. Every night is like a paparazzi dream. That's what's nice about Metro Manila—you can hold the social scene on the palm of your hand. Makes it easier for us nosy journalists.

Another night we were at Mati with architect **Conrad Onglao** who definitely seems more relaxed, cool and nonchalant these days. He has a sense of humor, too, which we hardly noticed before. Conrad has just done the interiors of Nuvo, with ex **Ivy Almario**—a potent tandem back in harness.

When you go to this new resto, note the lighting, which is, to me, a design statement in itself. We were there the Saturday night Fil-Estate Land's **Peng Perez de Tagle Jr.** gave a surprise birthday bash for his wife **Vicki**. Vicki thought the dinner was at Bocarino's. Indeed Peng went to great lengths to surprise his wife. It was a good soft-opening night for Nuvo, too.

I'm beginning to note how some are drawn to giving hospice care, to care for the terminally ill. The latest I knew of were **Susan Reyes** and good friend **Tess Escaler**, who'd put up hospice care services under the guidance of Dr. **Josefina Magno**, an 80-year-old dynamic woman who pioneered hospice care in the US. The group has no physical structure, they instead visit the patient in the home.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

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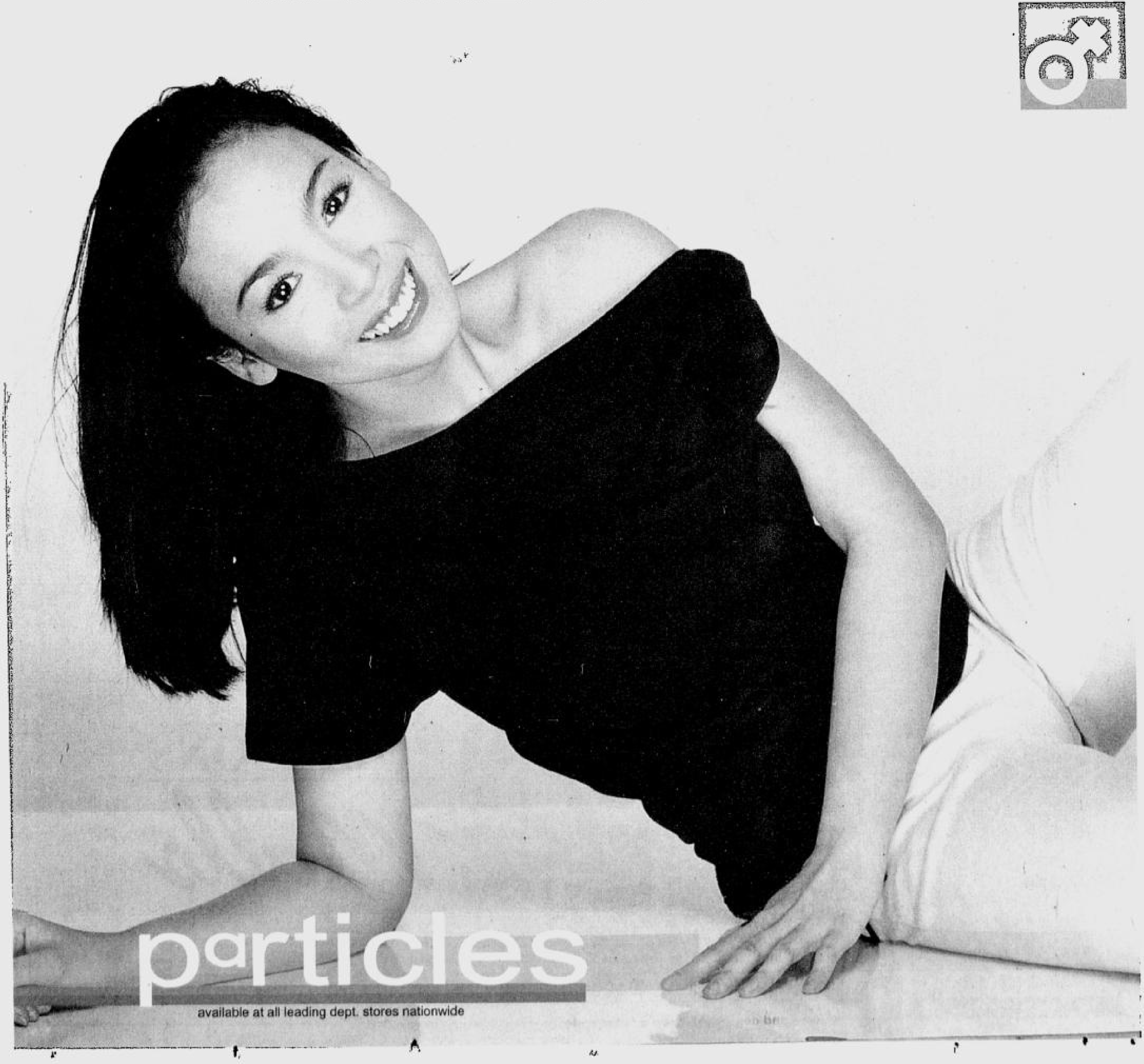
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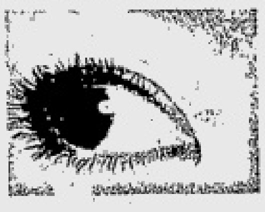
L'Occitane is known for using Mediterranean plants in its cosmetics and skin care. It is famous for incorporating lavender from Provence, rosemary and sage. These plant extracts have been known to have medicinal effects on the body.

LET'S DRINK TO THAT. Orange Juice, the clothing label made especially for girls 7-13 years old, brings active lifestyle with cotton tees in patriotic red, white and blue. Go for the glitter with flirty pink and aqua tops. Brighten up the beach in vivid striped and floral bathing suits. Check out the latest denim flares and comfy capris. There are also strappy summer dresses in delicious sherbet shades.

ASIA'S NEXT SUPERSTAR Hong Kong actress and singer Karen Mok is Hang Ten's newest image model.

Wink, wink

TIRED of playing hide 'n' seek with your littlest lashes? With Maybelline's new Lash Discovery Mini Brush Mascara, you can now call off the search party and "discover" those lashes you never knew you had. Lash Discovery's unique formula/brush combination lengthens and defines every single lash, even the seemingly invisible ones, and untie root-to-tip coverage. The result: a magnificent multitude of lashes that never get left behind.



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Shanghai surprise

Photos by Chito Vecina
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ANTONIO SALAC SANTOS

Spanish fashion house Loewe goes Oriental and a bit operatic à la 'Madama Butterfly'

LOEWE'S summer forecast brings out the sensuality and femininity of the woman. The look is inspired by the Orient, such as the straight cuts of dresses in Shanghai of the '40s, and the Mikado, a set of intertwined chopsticks forming a geometric and irregular pattern with one another.

The obi, the wide central band of the traditional Japanese kimono, is an important feature in the clothes, both in leather and in fabric. The finish of the garments is clean. There is no back-stitching in the leather garments. The clothes are closed with invisible hooks and snaps, and crossed obis are held in place in the same way.

MODFL:
CHRISCEL AGUDO
HAIR AND MAKEUP:
MICHAEL CRUZ AND LITA MAHINAY
LOCATION:
LANDCO PDCP CENTER
AND MARCO POLO HOTEL,
DAVAO CITY

BLACK Mikado patterns on a black cotton outfit is the motif of the evening dress.

ORIENTAL look in this nappa leather dress is seen in the high collar, the obi-inspired waistline and straight cuts of the dresses, evoking a look characteristic of Shanghai in the '40s.

The scent of glamour

RALPH Lauren's new floral fragrance, Glamorous, harks back to the innocent romanticism of "Breakfast at Tiffany's." Marketers are establishing a mental connection for the consumer to identify with the qualities of the image model, Spanish actress Penelope Cruz.

"There is a romanticism, a natural elegance, a quiet confidence to Penelope that drew me to her," says Lauren. "Her glamour is innate, without definition, but forever present."

Can a bit of glamour be acquired with a purchase of this perfume? Not necessarily, but it can make you look deeply into its true meaning.

Ezra Pound's couplet about beauty in a crowd encapsulates this attribute. "The apparition of these faces in a crowd:/Petals on a wet bough."

THE NEW Ralph Lauren perfume looks at glamour as something intrinsic and invisible, like a fragrance. Actress Penelope Cruz exudes this.

Next time you are in a crowd, try to think of yourself not as part of an anonymous mass, but as a flower in a limitless garden. All around are other flowers, but all belong to different species—no two are alike, as you will see if you survey the faces that circle you. You don't feel psychic pressure in this crowd: your identity is not discredited. If there are any unpleasant energies you detect among others, ignore them. Instead, try to pick up the positive feelings enjoyed by others around you. All crowds have something of this positive energy. You recognize everyone in the crowd as your equals. Yet, at the same time, you have a strong sense of self and the unique beauty at the heart of the self.

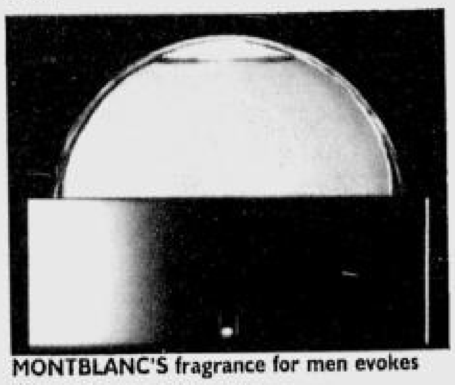
Contrary to popular fashionista belief, glamour is not a vague or abstract concept. It simply means a rightness of thought and deed, and such a beauty stems from this rightness.

Sexy Presence

PERFUMERS and their marketers make distinctions between niche markets. For instance, perfumes aimed at the elite consumers tend to use strategies featuring name associations.

One such example is Montblanc's man's fragrance, Prescence. The name capitalizes on the famous mountain and the luxury pen brand.

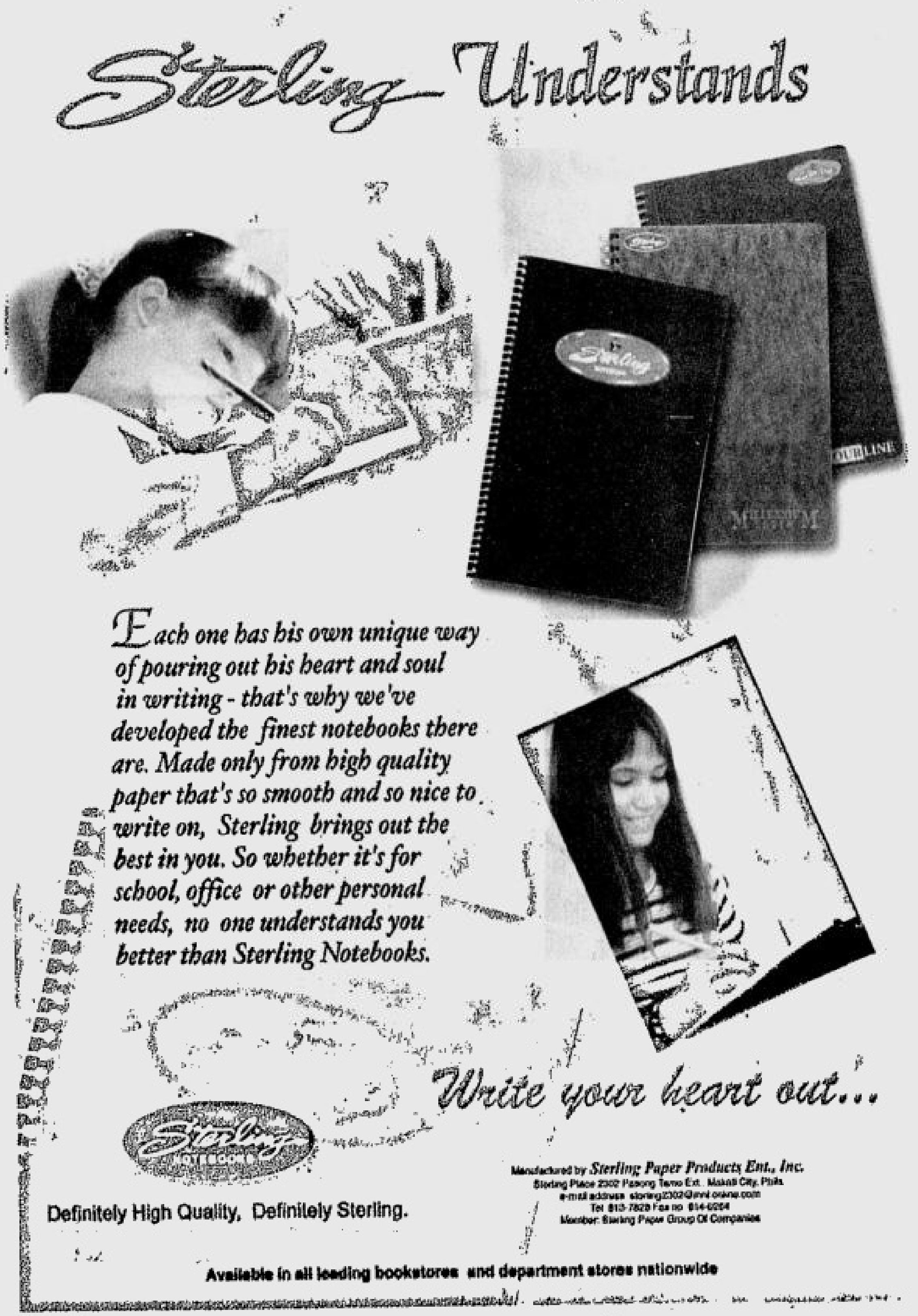
The name and marketing tack is also pegged on the body and sexual desire. There is an understated erotic association in the advertisement, which focuses on the importance of a man's presence in a woman's life. As an Oriental scent, Montblanc is undoubtedly targeting the man who thinks he's sexy.



MONTBLANC'S fragrance for men evokes desire.

Skin drencher

WHETHER parched by the environment, withered by travel or dehydrated by hormones, the skin feels dry and will soon experience dehydration. Clinique's Moisture Surge Light and Eye Gel drench the skin in a pool of moisture. The moisture-binding polymers and sugars work together to maintain the ideal moisture balance in the skin. Aloe activated water increases the extent of hydration. Use it as a mid-day pick-me-up over makeup when the air-conditioning takes a toll on your skin. Or, after a quick swim, apply the gel to comfort compromised skin. When traveling, apply a thin layer on face before the flight to counteract the drying effects of cabin air. Use the Eye Gel as a five-minute mask so that the skin becomes more resilient to fine lines accentuated by dryness. Moisture Surge can also work as a home spa treatment, a conditioner for cuticles and a controller for hair frizzies. Here are some make-up tricks. Mix Moisture Surge Eye gel with concealer for smooth application. For plump lips, apply Moisture Surge to the lip; lightly dust with powder and color with lip pencil. Available at Rustan's.



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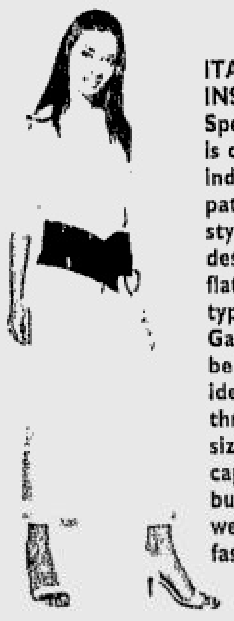
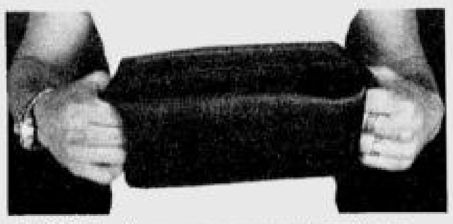
Heat of the moment



ITALIAN INSPIRED. Marks & Spencer's Per Una, is characterized by individual size pattern cutting, a styling innovation designed to fit and flatter each figure type and size. Garments will "not be absolutely identical throughout the sizes within each capsule collection, but offer every wearer the desired fashion look."



ALFA'S leather purse may not contain your entire house, but it can hold important items such as your wallet, Palm Pilot and personal care products.

SUMMER SHIRT. What can be more summery than the tropical shirt? The themes are literal—flora and fauna, scenic islands and flowers. Creative Concepts' tropical shirts are light as they are made from rayon and cotton. If you want something luxurious, there are styles in cotton-silk blend. For the Asian feel, the Sanefa print with Indian designs is swanky.

San Miguel
SARAP TO SUNDOWN
SUMMER 2002

PARTY DESTINATIONS FOR MAY 16 to 31

Check out what we got in store for you this week and where.

LUZON

May 1-31 Magayon Festival
Legaspi, Albay
Ahh...the fabled beauty of Albay. Experience it all in a flashy street parade, a sportsfest, art exhibits and concerts featuring Noty Notes and RSVP on the 18th, and Chili Factor and Crosswind on the 23rd.

May 17-18 Summer Solstice
White Rock Beach, Subic
A two-day, non-stop summer shindig with a drag race clinic, body-building competition, bikini open, dusk 'til dawn rave party and Fiesta Nights beach party plus lots of SMB!

May 18 Balsa Festival
Matabungkay Beach Resort, Batangas
Another fiesta made even more fun by SMB!

May 20-26 Kaogma Festival
Naga
"Kaogma" literally means a good time. And that's exactly what you'll get with a grand street parade, cultural expos and sports events made even more fun by SMB!

May 27-29 Pasayahan sa Lucena
Lucena, Quezon
Happiness is an SMB street party. And with more than 20 bands playing every night on 11 different stages, we're sending Lucena into SMB nirvana!

May 25 SMB Summer Beach Party
Puerto Galera
SMB's final toast to the summer season in this popular summer party destination features games and a concert by Manila bands.

MANILA

May 18 SMB Summer Street Party
Orosa St., Manila
Groove to the music of Banana Republic and The Entity and load up on SMB.

May 17, 24, & 31 San Mig Light Fab Summer Party Series
Cluvb-5, Mile Long Compound, Makati
Go ledge dancing and bang hips with the San Mig Light Best Body on the Ledge. Win cool San Mig Light prizes for every bucket of San Mig Light ordered.

May 18 & 25 SMB Beachball Bash 2002
Cluvb-5, Mile Long Compound, Makati
Party with the babes of summer! Then vote for your favorite babe by placing stickers on her body in the SMB Beachball Babe Competition. You get 2 free stickers for every bottle of SMB.

May 23 SMB Summer Party
Bargo, Eastwood City, Libis
Jam with cool bands, Silk and Brownman Revival, and loads of SMB.

May 24 SMB Summer Street Party
Eastwood City, Libis
The party continues with a crazy foam party that's guaranteed to get you wet and wild.

May 25 San Mig Light Double Dare Duathlon Open
UP Diliman Campus
Dare a challenging course that includes a 5K run, followed by a 20 K bike race, then another 5K run. Cash prizes and an awarding party featuring Tropical Depression await participants.

May 30 - June 1 Makati 332nd Foundation Day
Makati City
Coat-and-tie Makati goes into a wild frenzy! Go street dancing at Kalayaan with Brownman Revival and Ariba on May 30. Then rock with Color It Red, Barbie's Cradle and The Dawn on June 1 at the Pamantasan grounds.

VISAYAS

May 25 Y101 and San Mig Light Summer Sun Splash Festival
Tambuli Beach, Cebu
The city's premier resort town dons the colors of Light, as it pays tribute to a glorious summer with the hottest events under the sun. A grueling triathlon, jet-skiing, diving, kayaking and parasailing clinics, concerts and rave party, topped with a sizzling fashion show with bikini parade.

May 17-19 San Mig Light National Sport Climbing Competition
Dumaguete City
Top walljocks pit brain and brawn as they flock to this holiday city for the regional leg of this prestigious sports event. The whole thing begins with a kick-off gig on May 17 at El Amigo Bar and ends with an awarding party on May 19 at Rizal Boulevard.

May 24-25 Santacruzan Festival
Dumaguete City
We're bringing the Philippines' classic May festival to the beach! With the SMB Beach Party at Rizal Blvd. featuring Stage Crew on May 25.

May 25 Boracay Pearl Multisport Challenge
Pearl of the Pacific/ Cocomangas
Triathlon has never been this fun! A tough course set along the world's most beautiful coastline. After the event, cool down at Cocomangas with lots of ice-cold San Mig Light.

May 31-June 2 San Mig Light Outdoor Challenge
Boracay
Boracay gives you the most fun under the sun! With an outdoor sportsfest that includes an adventure race, mountain bike race, duathlon, beach soccer and three parties at Cocomangas, Beach Comber and other cool venues!

May 24-25 SMB Jamaican Nights
Marc's Beach Resort, Baybay, Roxas City
The country's seafood capital hosts its first ever SMB Bikini Open and all-star reggae concert night!

MINDANAO

May 25 SMB Beach Party
Paradise Beach, Davao
Groove to the sound of one of the country's coolest pop rock groups as Barbie's Cradle rocks paradise!

COLLECT THE CROWNS, GET TO SEE THE SIGHTS!
WIN COLD CASH AND PARTY ALL NIGHT!

Hundreds of lucky SMB drinkers have already won in the Sarap to Sundown raffle promo! Hurry! Join now! You could be the next Sarap to Sundown winner!

Just place 6 (six) SMB crowns in an envelope with your name, address, signature and the name of your suking tindahan. Drop your entries in drop boxes at selected outlets.

Promo runs from April 10 to June 10, 2002. Per DOH/BFAD Permit # 0199 Series of 2002

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HALTER top with green floral print, P1,095

PURPLE short-sleeved scoop-necked top with ruffles, P1,695

WHITE A-line knee-length skirt with red and purple floral print, P1,590

Elle-ments of style

Pastels and florals for women, classic and checkered for men

By Camille Cruz-Reyes
Contributor
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

ELLE boutique simplifies trends. Except for formals, the shop can satisfy the fashion needs of men and women.

Pastels of yellow, pink and apple green are the base colors in most of the styles. Floral prints are not too dainty. There are rich violets, purple, pinks and reds that appeal to femininity.

For those going for a sporty look, a fitted striped tee in scooped neck or an off-shoulder style gives a twist to the ordinary neckline. Matched with a nice pair of not-so-cargo khakis, the look is rugged but fashionable.

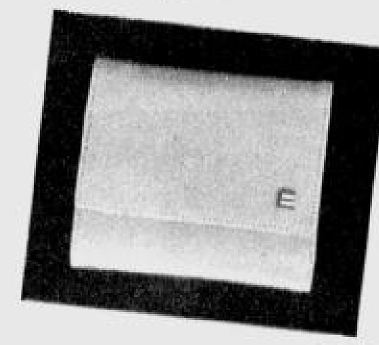
Dressing for success in the workplace can be tough. Can you incorporate casual pieces in your suits or classic slacks? You can. T-shirts, for example, are safe. Of course, your T-shirt should fall under the fitted knit category where the piping of the neckline is very thin and not as wide as that in athletic T-shirts. You may also wear a ruffled cotton sleeveless top under a suit.

Accessories are two-toned. Wallets in cream-and-green and red-and-khaki combinations look fresh.

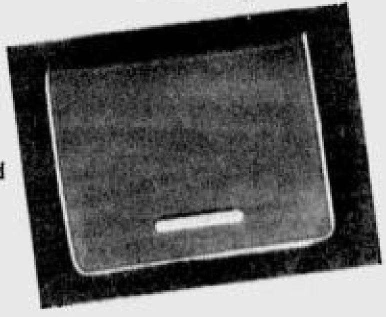
The men's line carries classic shirts in favorite light and dark blues, in plain and spare checkered. Medium-sized checks in blue and white are clean and ultra manly. You can pair off your shirt with a subtle polka-dotted necktie or a textured monochromatic one.

E-mail the author at unit36d@vasia.com

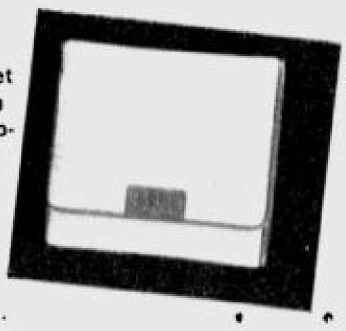
WHITE pigskin flap bag with two front pockets, P3,900



WHITE duo-fold pigskin wallet, P4,100



RED basic wallet, duo fold with snap, P1,790



CREAM basic wallet with green piping, duo-fold with snap, P2,190

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Fruit of love

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

WE were having one of those contemplative moments, surveying what had become of our lives and what more to expect.

A mother ended up sighing (as mothers often do) after bringing up the topic of the endless phone calls her son got from girls. This mother was appalled at the thought that her 14-year-old boy was being stalked by a faceless bevy of female phone callers who all sounded like they were "O.D.-ing" on baby cologne. She made references to the not-too-distant past when girls never called up boys unless they were asking for details regarding schoolwork or for help in a highly competitive inter-class newspaper drive.

There were all those text messages barging into her son's Nokia. She wondered aloud if these girls had prepaid phone cards and how much they actually spent each week just incessantly punching in all those cute messages to send to her little boy. "Don't their parents know what kind of girls they are raising?"

Well, times have really changed. She was worried about her son—on how his Catholic upbringing can provide adequate strength of character to resist all these temptations. I gave her what I believed was the most realistic and practical solution: "Just make sure he does not run out of condoms."

My friend almost burst in tears, unable to accept the fact that her *baby* was now capable of making his own babies—and that he stared at the Britney Spears music video like a zombie, not because he was dazzled by the magic of her music or the precision choreography.

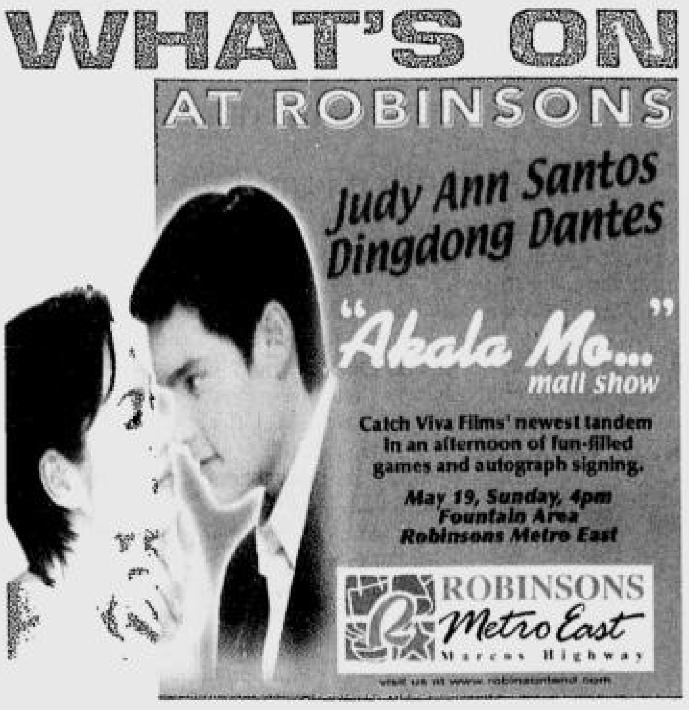
Another subject

That was when our other friend opened another subject. Her son does not receive phone calls from girls. Well, yes, he talks to girls but *not* that way. Like every concerned mother, my friend casually eavesdropped on the phone chat of her 12-year-old son with a girl. She was not sure whether she was disappointed or surprised to discover that he was not cooing sweet nothings to the other party.

Her son was arguing as to who wore a more gorgeous gown at the past Oscars: Cameron Diaz or Reese Witherspoon?

"Oh, he is like that," mother of Oscar Fashion Critic dismissed. "He notices

FRUIT/ p.E2


WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS
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Dingdong Dantes
"Akala Mo..." mall show
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mkrfero mkrlogo1 mkrzagato mkrmokona

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Feline, fluid, and gutsy Guillaume Compain

The French dancer-choreographer infuses his dances with a liquid yet controlled spirit

Photos by Patrick Uy

CREDIT:
GROOMING: ROCKY GIMENEZ FOR COCOY SALON
CLOTHES: DIESEL

FRENCH dancer-choreographer Guillaume Compain is tall and long. His limbs can stretch on forever. For a six-footer, his movements are light and rapier fast, covering space with speed and articulation. His energy is resilient and liquid, yet defined and controlled.

The 24-year-old artist is in Manila to hold a workshop at Steps Studio and to choreograph. When Steps holds its recital in June at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the students will present his work "Vague a l'ame (Waves of the Soul.)"

"I like to work with fluid movements. There is a floor work and some contact with the dancers," says Compain.

His movements are fast-paced—a lot of quick shifts of weights, off-center turns that spiral to the floor, tricky directional changes—all done with precision.

In contrast to his lyrical work is his solo "Felin (Catlike)"choreographed by Claude Brumachon. The choreography involves the dancer sitting on the chair, exuding wild but light movements of a cat. True to the Brumachon style, the gestures are violent, stemming from dancer's guts.

Compain is also choreographing a sensual duet for Ballet Philippines' Cecile Sicangco Ibarrola, which will be performed in July at the CCP. "Eden" is based on the biblical story of Paradise.

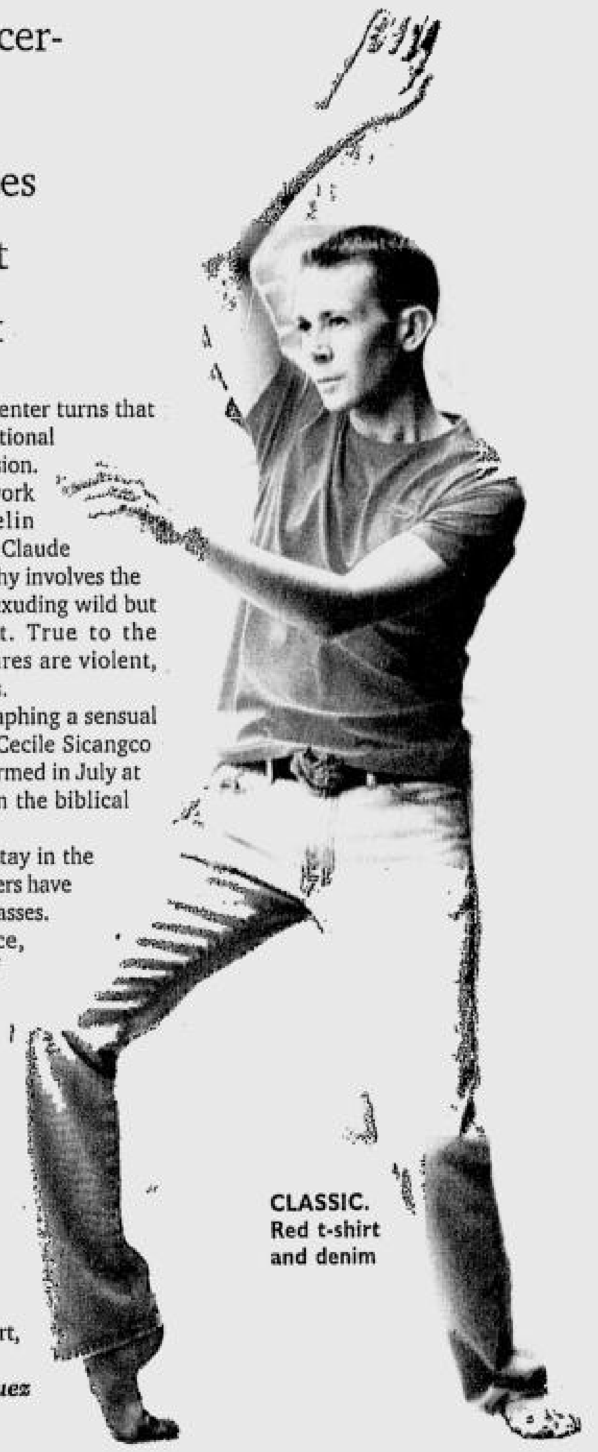
Compain is enjoying his stay in the Philippines. He says the dancers have been enthusiastic about his classes. He observes that in France, dancers take the variety of dance classes for granted. In contrast, Filipinos are thirsty for new ideas. They are also so diligent that they stay after classes to work on the movements

After summer, Compain will be going back to France as a freelance artist. He prefers to perform with different modern dance companies.

For details of Steps' concert, call 757-2989 or 843-8472.

Marge Enriquez

BLUE western shirt is the in thing in menswear



CLASSIC. Red t-shirt and denim

Fruit of love

From page E1

these things. *Kasi naman* he reads my copies of Vogue and Bazaar." Then she went on saying that she would often knock on the door of her son's bedroom at about 2 a.m. to force him to sleep and stop watching the F Channel.

My other friend (still quiet) and I just nodded. "And he loves to draw ... *pero* unlike his Kuya ... he sketches girls." I wanted to cut her and clarify, "Not girls, dear. *Gowns!*"

But even before I could whip up something so deliciously witty, she added, "Well, he likes art. That's something he got from my side of the family."

All the friends knew that. How could her 12-year-old get *anything* from her husband who played a game of basketball like a berserk bulldozer or who guzzled down beer like a hippo suffering from a sunstroke? How could this son even blend with her other male offspring who did not only sport a tattoo, but also a stud punctured on the lower lip and called everyone *dude* while strutting down the parking lots of Libis looking like he was suffering from priapism? No, no, no! All *that* artistic urge *must* come from her side of the gene pool.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Her little son draws women's gowns, debates with his girl pals on who wore the best Oscar gown, adores 'Powerpuff Girls' and keeps photos of Prince William. Is mom prepared to accept him for what he has become?

Sort of soft

Casually, she said, "He is sort of soft."

Mummy-of-Potential-Maniac asked, "In what way?"

But the interrogated party did not turn defensive. "He is so neat. He makes sure that all his things are in order. And he is very careful with what he wears. *Naku*, you will never catch him mixing blue with brown."

I said there was nothing wrong with that. Not mixing blues with browns only means that her kid was not color blind. And all that neatness *schtick* meant good toilet training, impeccable manners and genteel conduct— something quite rare in kids nowadays who equated sloppiness with being *au courant* and street chic.

Immediately my friend was relieved. She agreed that good behavior only reflected her success as a mother and the quality of family life experienced by her brood. And even if her son had an entire album of tear sheets of photographs of Prince William—the Adonis of the House of Windsor—that really did not mean anything. He just liked... uh, nice, clean things.

Prince William?! Did she deliberately skip the part that this son also had pages torn from magazines with the photos of Josh Hartnett, Heath Ledger, particular members of Westlife, N' Sync and the Backstreet Boys? Did he also have volumes of scrapbooks with carefully pasted photos of Piolo Pascual, Diether Ocampo, Dingdong Dantes and Jericho Rosales?

"*Baka naman* it is only a phase," Mummy-of-Junior-Stud contributed with such tenderness, "boys go through that phase."

I could not help but ask, "Did your son also collect pictures of Prince William?" There was such vehemence in the snappy reply that went, "Of course not! He has tons of comic books and he loves AstroBoy." *O, kita mo na* ..., Astro-*Boy!*

Puff

"My son does not like AstroBoy... my daughter does," said the other friend with reassuring pride. So what does the F-Channel-Vogue-reading pubescent creature love in the world of animation? "*Uh ... Powerpuff Girls?*" Even I was stunned. *Yon na!* That was the ultimate giveaway: Bubbles, Blossom and Buttercup. Just like Cher, Daphne and Angel.

As I made a discourse on looking at the positive side, both ladies were quiet. The mother of the junior macho had her head down: I guess she was silently whispering a Thanksgiving prayer assuming that her hormone-crazy son was bound to give her less problems than if he was the potential heir to the presidency of the Fashion Designers Guild of the Philippines. The Mama of the *Powerpuff-wannabe* listened with such intense concentration as if I were giving a treatise on the effects of Positive Energy to alleviate global warming.

My point was quite clear: the kid was going to be whatever he was going to be. And if there was anybody who was going to teach him acceptance, then it should start in the very home that shaped him into what he had become. *Ooops, wrong line!* Suddenly, there was a look of panic on my friend's face, "You mean... we are responsible?"

Choices

She panicked. "*Kasi naman si Daddy* ... The boy does not really like to play basketball ... *pinipilit*. When he caught his son baking brownies, he got really upset ... *eh, ready-mix naman yung niluluto ng bata.*" No, I said: it has got nothing to do with baking brownies, lemon squares or even *sans rival*. And it certainly has got nothing to do with knowing all the names of the PBA players or identifying the model of Nike rubber shoes blindfolded. It has everything to do with choices—and there are choices that children make without the aid—much less, the harassment of their parents.

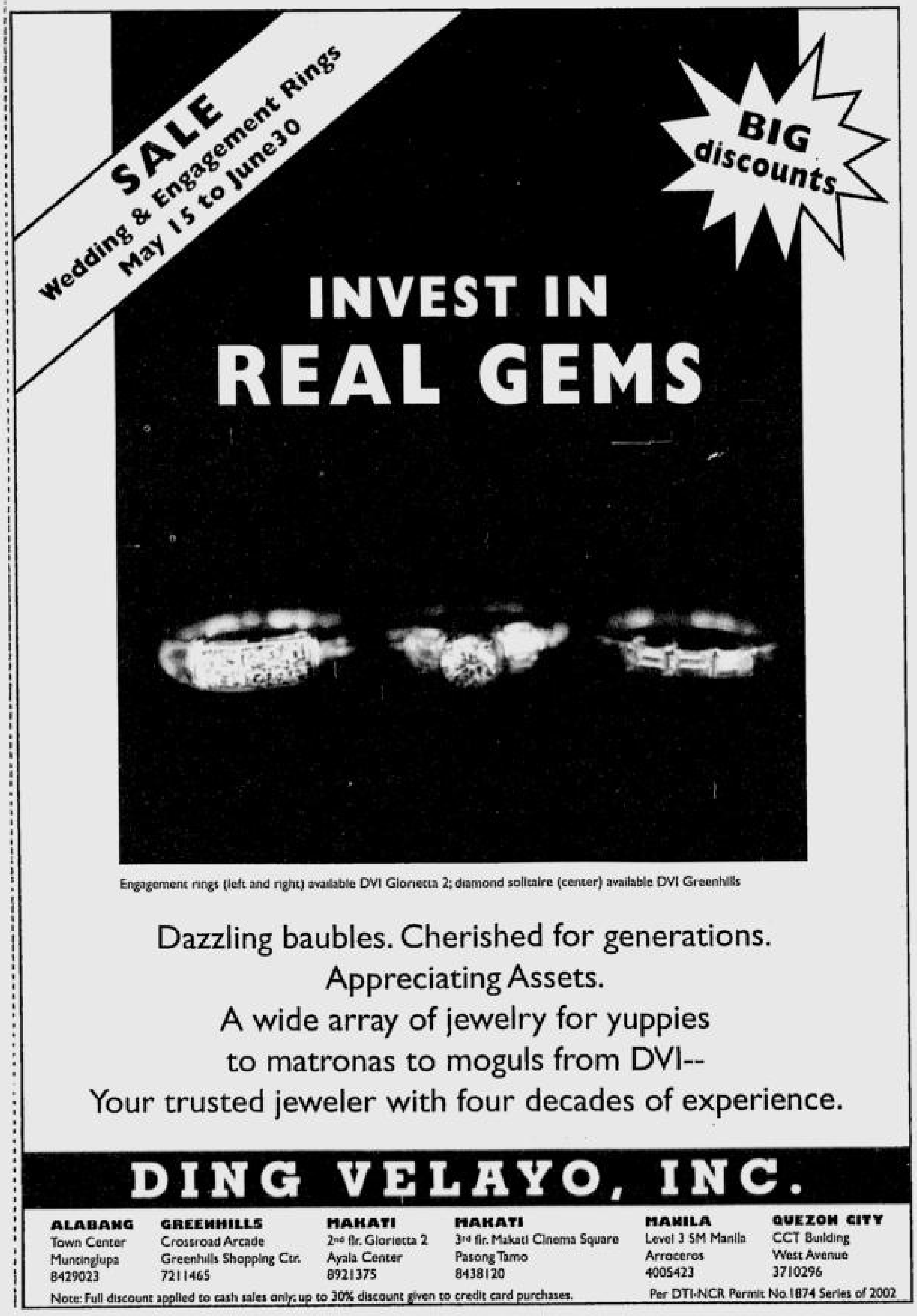
My friend sighed, looking morose. Our other female companion reached out to her, held her hand and said, "*Baka naman* phase." But then, whether it was a phase or not, the disturbed mother gathered her wits and bravely muttered a line straight from the sappiest soap opera, "Whoever he is... whatever he is... he will always be my son."

She went on, "Besides, I think it will be nice *na rin* to have a son who is... who is..." For some cosmic reason, she could not finish the sentence. I wanted to scream, "*Say it! Go on, Woman ... SAY IT!*" But she opted for, " ... who is artistic." Then she giggled, "Well, it could be worse. He can turn out to be an addict, a drop-out, a bum ... so it's OK *na* if he is ... he is ... (*Say it! Say it!*) ... artistic."

I told her that it would be quite a relief that she would always have someone to advise her about what shade of eye shadow or lipstick to use. Better yet, is it not great to have your son help you ransack the accessories department of Rustan's looking for the right bag and belt to match your outfit? If she could be that lucky, he could even do her clothes and hair! Imagine how much money she could save! Who knows Mom best than her own fruit of love?

"Like how many mothers can have sons who will brave Divisoria to choose curtain fabrics, huh?"

Suddenly enlightened and emboldened, the once-distressed mother finally said, "I agree. There is nothing wrong if he... turns out that way. These people are useful to society."



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1874 Series of 2002

You Don't Have to be Slim to be Fashionable!

The ***SM Plus Size Collection*** is designed for today's full-figured women...active, stylish and raring to be part of the fashion mainstream. Very much resembling clothes one would find in regular sized racks, the SM Plus Size Collection are cut proportionately to flatter fuller figures. Sizes for tops range from L (for 34-inch waistlines) to Triple L (for 40-inch waistlines). Sizes for skirts and pants easily fit women with 44" to 52" bust lines!

Plus Size has three categories: **Trendy, Casual Basic, and Work Stylish.**

The ***Trendy*** collection includes top fashion stories of the season—peasant and romantic-inspired tops, stretch ladies blouses with embroidery, and cool knitted shirts. Fabrics are soft and light - chiffon, linen, Swiss cotton, as well as denim.

The ***Casual Basic*** collection allows one to mix and match knitted and woven separates in a wide selection of colors for a pulled-together look. These are wardrobe wonders that go a long way.

Work Stylish on the other hand, includes blazers, pants, and skirts that allow one to go to work in style. These are must-haves on any big woman's wardrobe.

Only at SM does dressing up become more fun for larger women! The ***Plus Size*** collection is available at the Ladies Wear Department of all SM Department Store branches.

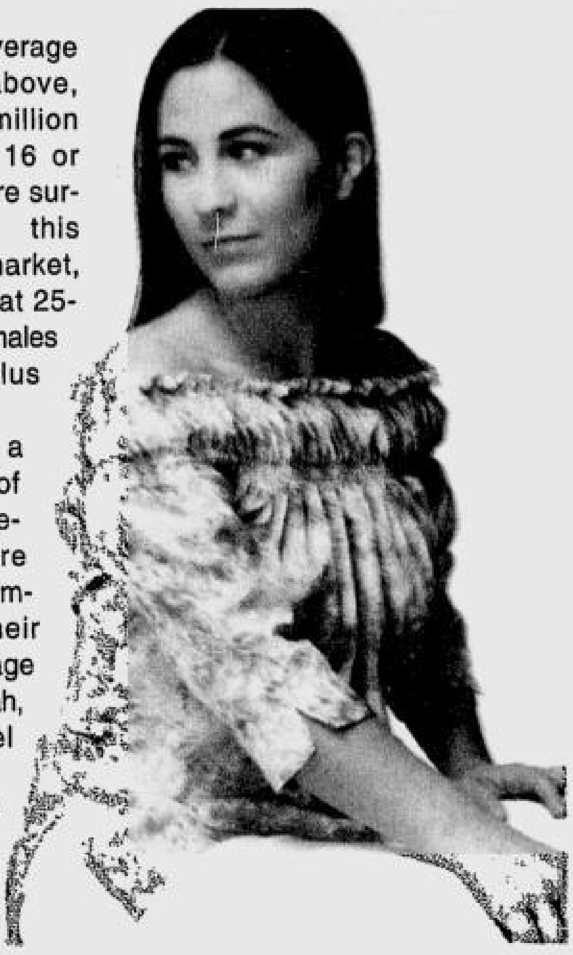
Fashion, just your size at SM

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Today's full-figured women are having difficulty finding the right size from an array of stylish clothes available in the market. If and when they do, they are stuck with clothes that are shapeless and unflattering; while these clothes conceal a few pounds, they also add a couple of years.

All these difficulties are now a thing of the past as **SM Department Store** introduces its new **PLUS SIZE** Collection. The line offers a new sense of fashion fun to the growing number of larger women. In the United States, for example, 62 million women are an average size of 12 and above, with some 50 million wearing a size 16 or larger. Even more surprising in this youth-oriented market, are estimates that 25-30% of young females are wearing plus sizes.

Likewise, a greater number of big women are becoming more confident and comfortable with their larger-than-average sizes. Think Oprah, think model Sophie Dahl, or Emmy winner Carlyn Mannheim.



More plus size fashion tips

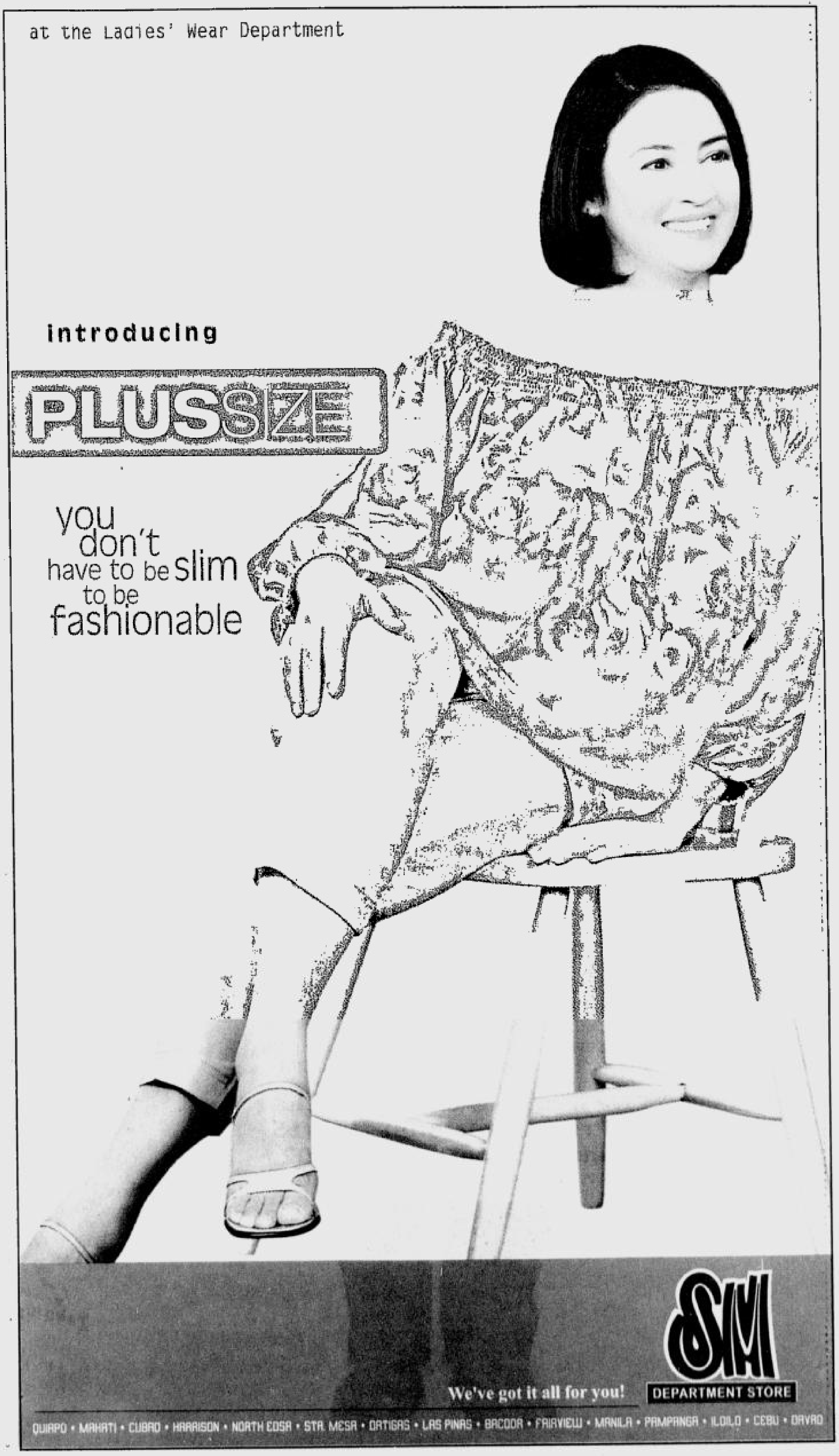
Wearing the right kinds of clothing can do wonders. Here are more tips on howplus size women can appear taller and slimmer from SM:

Topping it Off
If you have round shoulders
Avoid: heavy, wide lapels
long necks
low necks
collarless necks
Instead: stand up as straight as possible
wear flat collars
To disguise heavy upper arms
Avoid: sleeveless or short sleeves
tight fitting sleeves
anything that draw attention to the arms like arm bands or bows

To minimize a large bosom
Avoid: tight clothes
shiny fabrics
double breasted styles
large patterns
Instead: Wear v or round necklines
dark blouses and tops

Waist Wonders
To create the illusion of a slimmer waist
Avoid: wide belts, sashes
waist length blouses or jackets – anything that ends at the waist
sheaths and drindls
tight fitting clothes
heavy, knobby fabrics that tend to make you look heavier
Instead: try the empire style
wear full blouses
wear three quarter length tunics or overblouses
wear narrow belts of the same fabric as the dress
broaden shoulder line
divert attention elsewhere with scarves, jewelry, and hair accessories

The Bottom Line
To make one's hip look slimmer
Avoid: Tight-waist clothing
Princess cut dresses
Clinging fabrics
Instead: Wear gored skirts
long jackets or tunics
boxy jackets
patterns with angles instead of circles
dark clothing in hip area with lighter top colors that divert attention to other areas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Hair care for the up and about

By Marie Calica
Contributor

ONE little stick is all it took to launch a thousand hairstyles. Thirteen years ago, four Italian brothers known as the Mascolos formed a family business now known as Tigi Haircare. It was then that they introduced a nifty little product called Bed Head, a waxy stick in a silver tube that, when rubbed on hair, gave a tousled wear finish. Its effect literally gave you the "just tumbled out of bed" hair—very reflective of what most of its users do: jump out of bed just in time to get to their appointments.

In the Philippines, people started getting into Bed Head only in August of last year, when Tigi Haircare was relaunched. This June the popular hair care brand goes full blast with a full range of products.

"Bed Head started it all. Today so many products out there have jumped on the 'hurried' hairstyle which was started by this one simple product," says David Feldia, senior brand manager of Tigi.

But what started out as just a simple hair product has turned into a lifestyle. Today Tigi Haircare sells its wide range of products via professional hair salons around the globe, from Asia to Norway and from Poland to New Zealand. In the Philippines, Bed Head (sold between P525 and P1,400) is available only in top salons like Frank Provost, Emphasis, Propaganda, Piandre, Gem and H. This is probably why most people think that Bed Head is not very affordable.

Tigi is timeless hair care for those with hardly the time to spare

False notion

"But that's a false notion. With every bottle of Bed Head you get a personalized instruction from your hairstylist as to product use (how much to put, when to use it). More than that you get value for your money because the formula is so undiluted that you only need a few drops to see maximum results," says David. In fact, David compares a Bed Head 250-ml shampoo bottle to one gallon of ordinary shampoo—which means your Bed Head product can last for up to two months!

Bed Head, Tigi makers say, used to capture the essence of youth but over time realized that the Bed Head market is ageless. The appeal starts from the delicious-looking packaging (who can resist catchy names like Ego Boost, Moisture Maniac or Dumb Blonde?) then continues with the appeal in application. It's easy to put on—whatever the hair type.

What most Bed Head users don't have much of, however, is time. The whole range has a complete product to fit the fastest lifestyle. In fact musicians Limp Bizkit and Blur like to gloss over some Bed Head Wax Stick before they go on stage, while pop icon Britney Spears is known to be a fan of the whole range as well—she was spotted wearing a Bed Head T-shirt. Actress Meg Ryan says she loves the products, too,

which is probably why her hairstyle always seems to start a trend. In the local scene, TV host Kris Aquino is said to be a loyal user, followed by concert divas Zsa Zsa Padilla and Pops Fernandez.

No wear-and-tear makeup

WOMEN can't get enough of these long-lasting formula foundations. As their skin tends to dry out, their makeup looks matte and heavy.

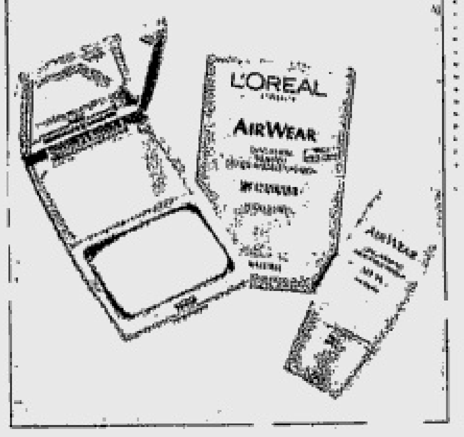
L'Oreal's Air Wear uses micro-aerated technology that prevents color fading yet enables the skin to breathe. Gentle, vaporous oils endow anti-transfer properties on the formulation, resulting in a smooth application. The texture is fine and non-greasy so that the skin can breathe.

Micro-bubbles of ultra-light powders brighten the network formed by the oils. This results in a soft matte finish. Glycerine moisturizes to help protect the skin. The UV filters shield the skin from pollution. The water in the formula dissipates and creates a soft sensation of freshness.

These ingredients result in a genuine oxygen providing foundation.

To match the foundation, L'Oreal's eye shadows come in six pastel colors that contain hydrating agents. The color stays for eight hours.

And, if you've partied late, give your eye a perker-upper. It provides an instant optical effect that reduces the appearance of dark circles due to stress. The Hydra Fresh Eye eliminates puffiness and moisturizes without greasiness.



New cosmetic products guarantee 'second look'

MARY Kay introduces a sleek and chic new line, MK Signature, a collection of the company's popular crème lipsticks, lip glosses, lip liners, concealers, loose powders and powder foundations that guarantees a "second look."

The new products come in a cool new packaging.

Discover rich, stay-true color with MK Signature Crème Lipstick, an exclusive creamy formula with brilliant, beautiful colors. It contains "micro-pillows," which provide a lightweight texture and keeps lips moist and supple during wear.

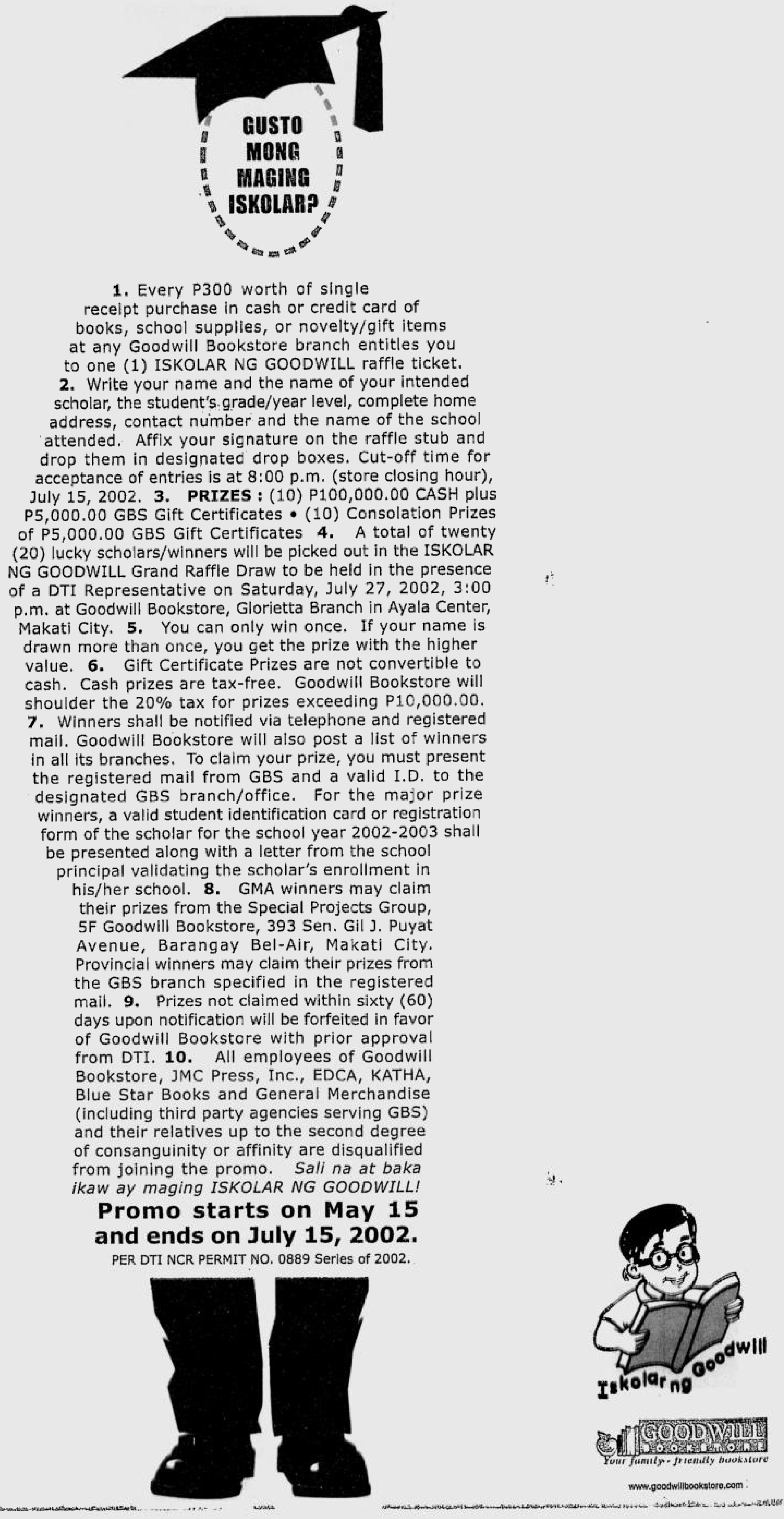
MK Signature Lip Gloss combines a sparkling shine with rich color while hydrating and protecting lips by providing a moisture barrier.

Waterproof, creamy and long-lasting, MK Signature Lip Pencil Liner applies smoothly and evenly for a perfect outline. It is the ultimate complement to your favorite MK Signature Crème Lipstick and Lip Gloss.

With MK Signature Loose Powder, MK Signature Concealer and TimeWise Dual-Coverage Powder Foundation, it is easier than ever to cover skin imperfections. Oil-free, lightweight, transfer-resistant and formulated for all skin types, TimeWise Dual-Coverage Powder Foundation come in five exciting shades for a sheer and natural look.

The TimeWise Dual-Coverage Powder Foundation comes in a sleek and refillable platinum compact, which can also hold a Crème-to-Powder Foundation with the new round powder brush or a cosmetic sponge.

For MK Signature products, visit Mary Kay Philippines at La Fuerza Compound, 2241 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City or call 893-4855.


GUSTO MONG MAGING ISKOLAR?

1. Every P300 worth of single receipt purchase in cash or credit card of books, school supplies, or novelty/gift items at any Goodwill Bookstore branch entitles you to one (1) ISKOLAR NG GOODWILL raffle ticket. **2.** Write your name and the name of your intended scholar, the student's grade/year level, complete home address, contact number and the name of the school attended. Affix your signature on the raffle stub and drop them in designated drop boxes. Cut-off time for acceptance of entries is at 8:00 p.m. (store closing hour), July 15, 2002. **3. PRIZES :** (10) P100,000.00 CASH plus P5,000.00 GBS Gift Certificates • (10) Consolation Prizes of P5,000.00 GBS Gift Certificates **4.** A total of twenty (20) lucky scholars/winners will be picked out in the ISKOLAR NG GOODWILL Grand Raffle Draw to be held in the presence of a DTI Representative on Saturday, July 27, 2002, 3:00 p.m. at Goodwill Bookstore, Glorietta Branch in Ayala Center, Makati City. **5.** You can only win once. If your name is drawn more than once, you get the prize with the higher value. **6.** Gift Certificate Prizes are not convertible to cash. Cash prizes are tax-free. Goodwill Bookstore will shoulder the 20% tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.00. **7.** Winners shall be notified via telephone and registered mail. Goodwill Bookstore will also post a list of winners in all its branches. To claim your prize, you must present the registered mail from GBS and a valid I.D. to the designated GBS branch/office. For the major prize winners, a valid student identification card or registration form of the scholar for the school year 2002-2003 shall be presented along with a letter from the school principal validating the scholar's enrollment in his/her school. **8.** GMA winners may claim their prizes from the Special Projects Group, 5F Goodwill Bookstore, 393 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Barangay Bel-Air, Makati City. Provincial winners may claim their prizes from the GBS branch specified in the registered mail. **9.** Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days upon notification will be forfeited in favor of Goodwill Bookstore with prior approval from DTI. **10.** All employees of Goodwill Bookstore, JMC Press, Inc., EDCA, KATHA, Blue Star Books and General Merchandise (including third party agencies serving GBS) and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo. *Sali na at baka ikaw ay maging ISKOLAR NG GOODWILL!*

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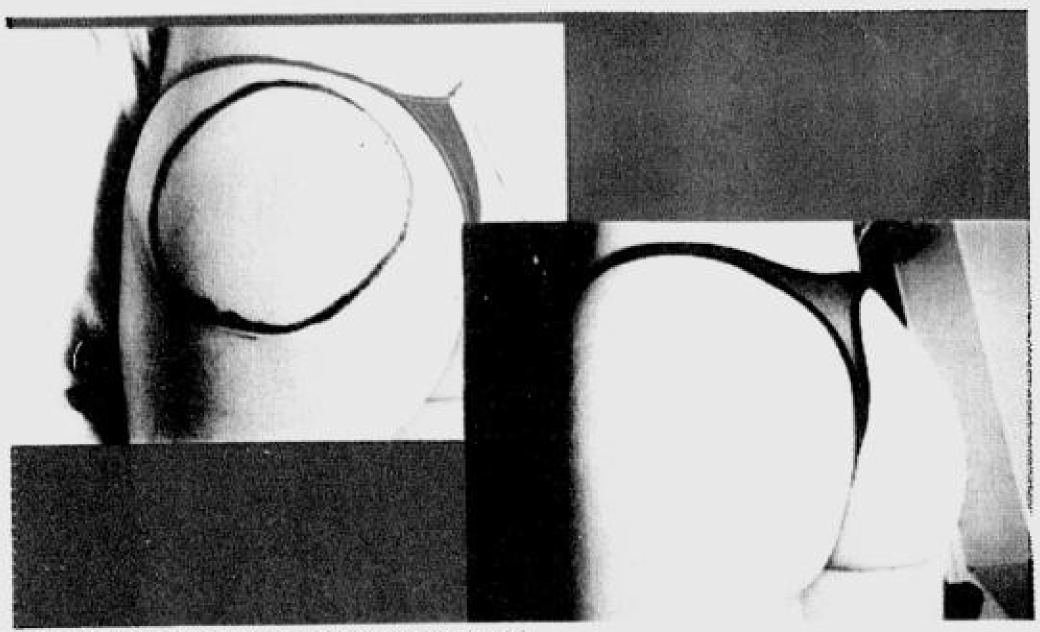


EVEN derrieres can get augmented with hydrogel.

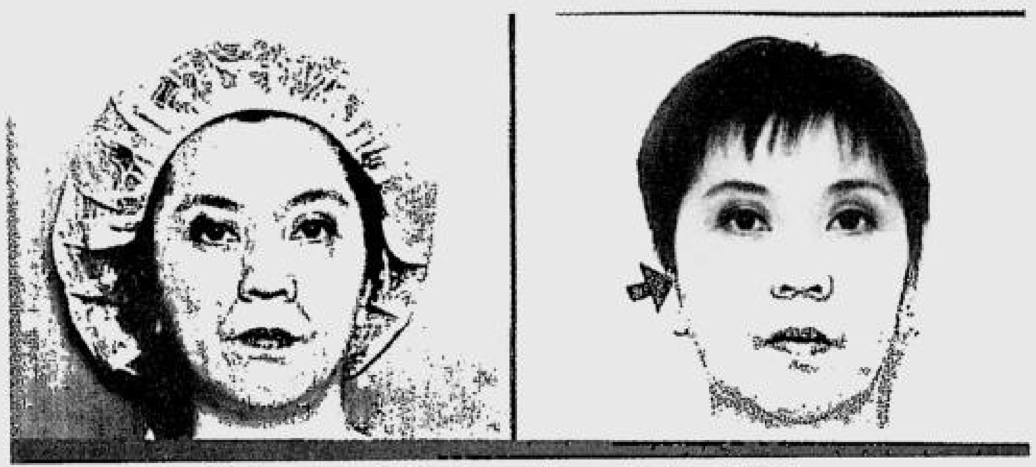
The hottest thing since botox, the Aptos Thread is a jagged thread that is inserted into the skin to pull up sagging skin. The healing time is faster

Your youthfulness now hangs by a Thread

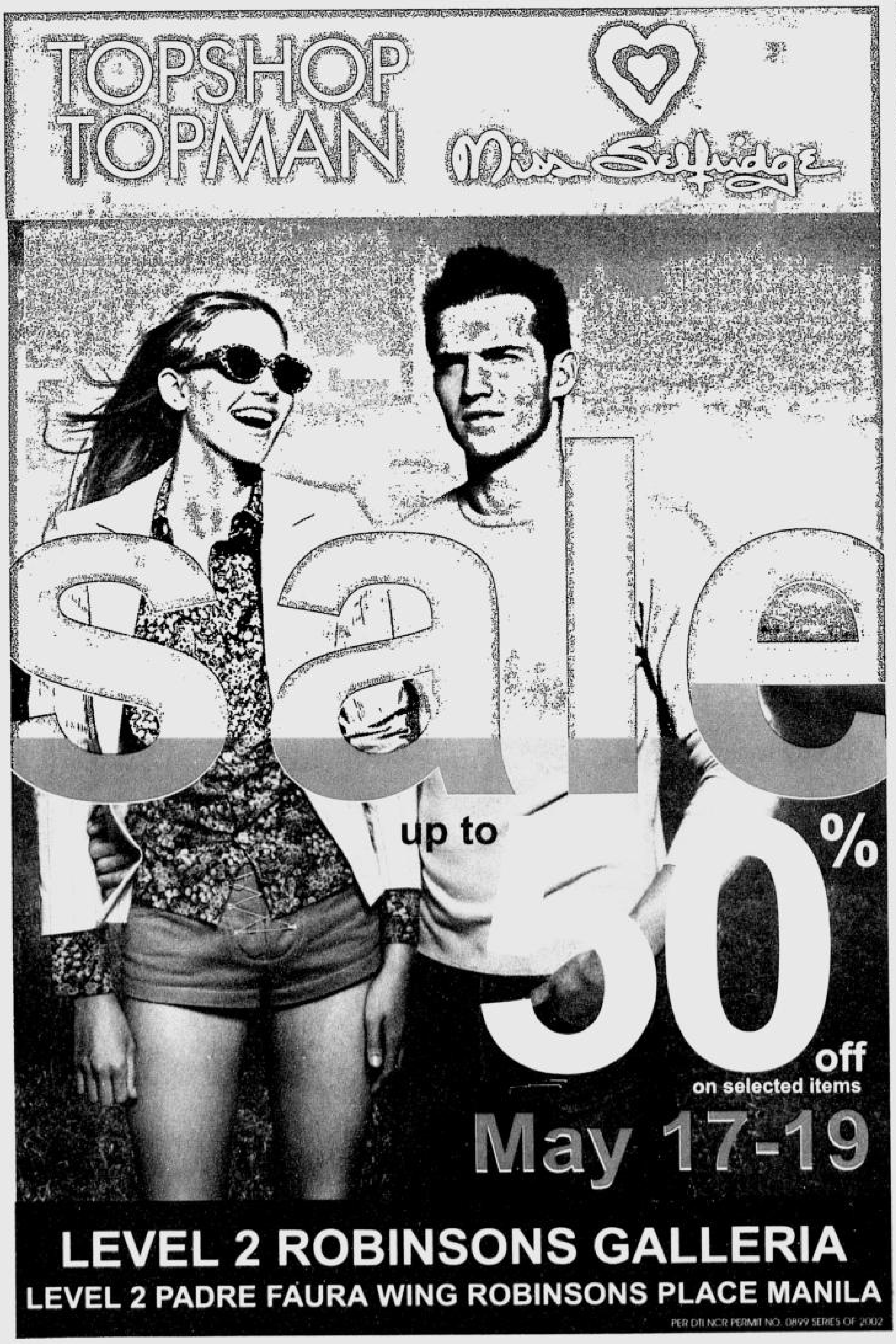
THE HOTTEST thing since botox hangs on a fine thread. The Aptos Thread is an alternative to the mini-tuck. Developed by Russian scientist Marlen Sulamanidze, the Aptos Thread is a fine, jagged thread that is inserted into the skin and pulls up sagging muscles. Unlike cosmetic surgery, which sometimes leaves fine scars and takes a long recovery period, the results of the procedure is imperceptible and the healing time is faster. It is an hour-long outpatient procedure that is done by a dermatological surgeon.

It is popularly used in lifting sagging cheekbones. A spinal needle, which looks like a fine tube, is inserted into the skin and penetrates the fatty tissues. The Aptos Thread is inserted into the needle and once the dermatologist determines the correct placement of the facial muscles, the thread is pulled under the cheek pad. The thread is cut close to the skin. There is a slight bruising for a week. The patient can't move the mouth very much, but the effort is worth it. The procedure is applicable for forehead lifts and firming up jawlines.

The new approach has been introduced by the Belo Medical Group (tel. 817-7178 or 373-3355). The clinic also offers a filler to create rounder hips. Filipinos generally have flat hips. One way to get sensual curves is to inject the derriere with polyacrylamide hydrogel, a Japanese invention that is safe and economical. It is injected in the flat part of the hips and the hydrogel creates the roundness of the hip. You can sit down but you have to sleep on your stomach for two weeks.



BEFORE AND AFTER photo of a patient getting a lift from the Aptos Thread.



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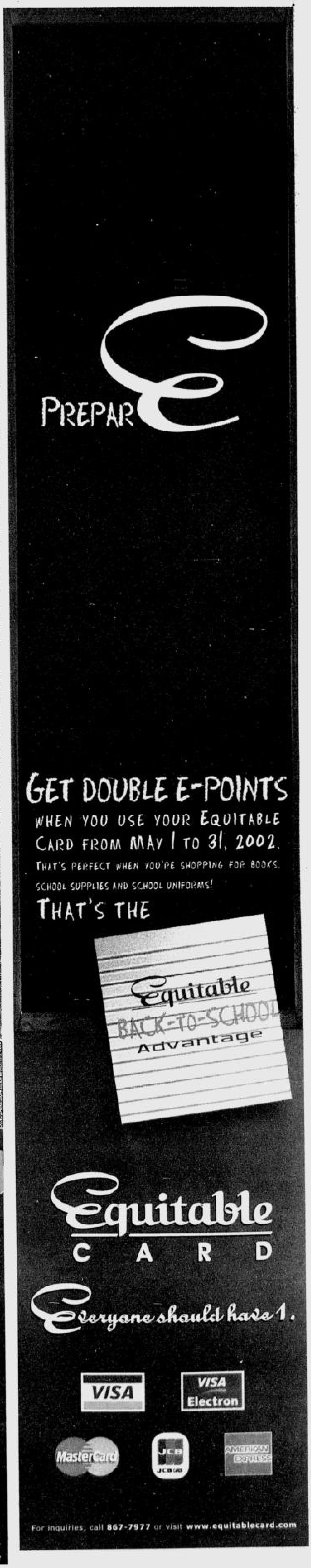

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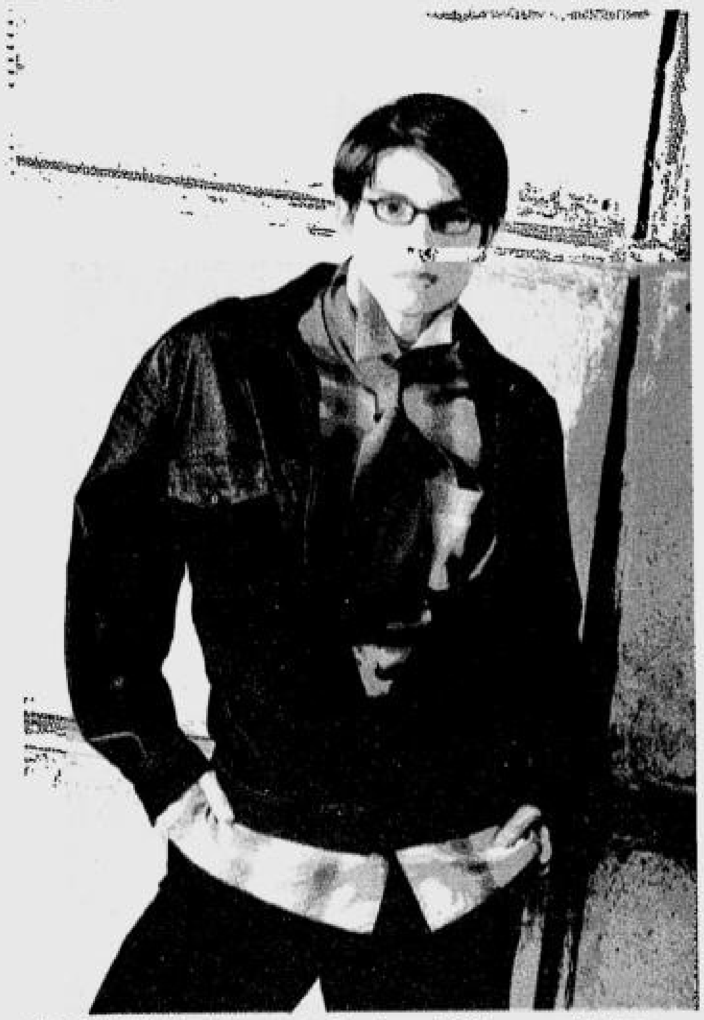
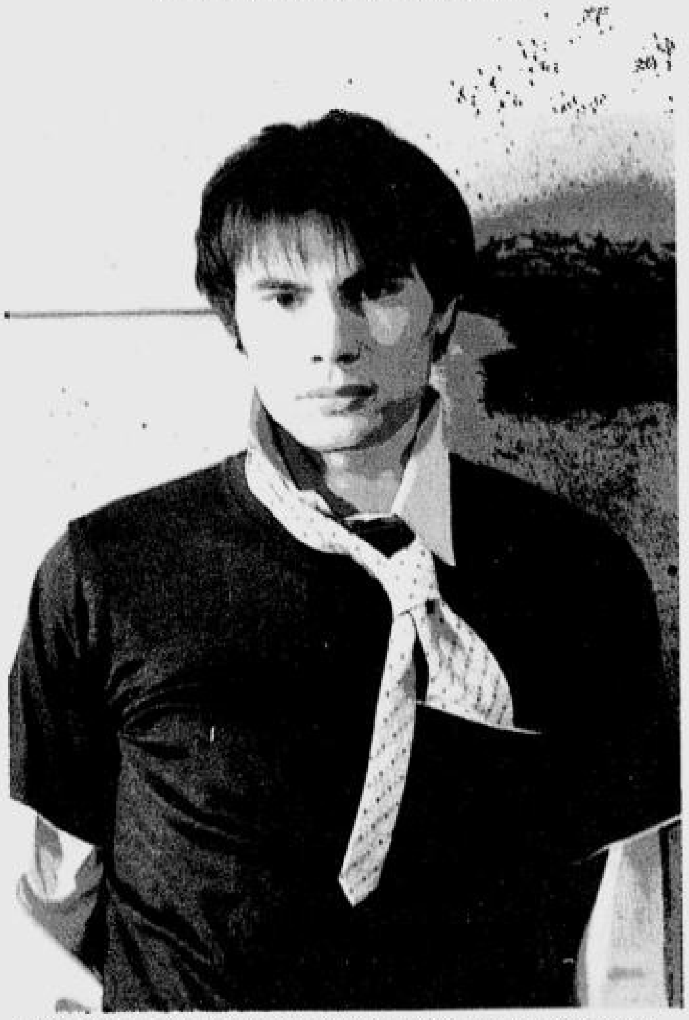
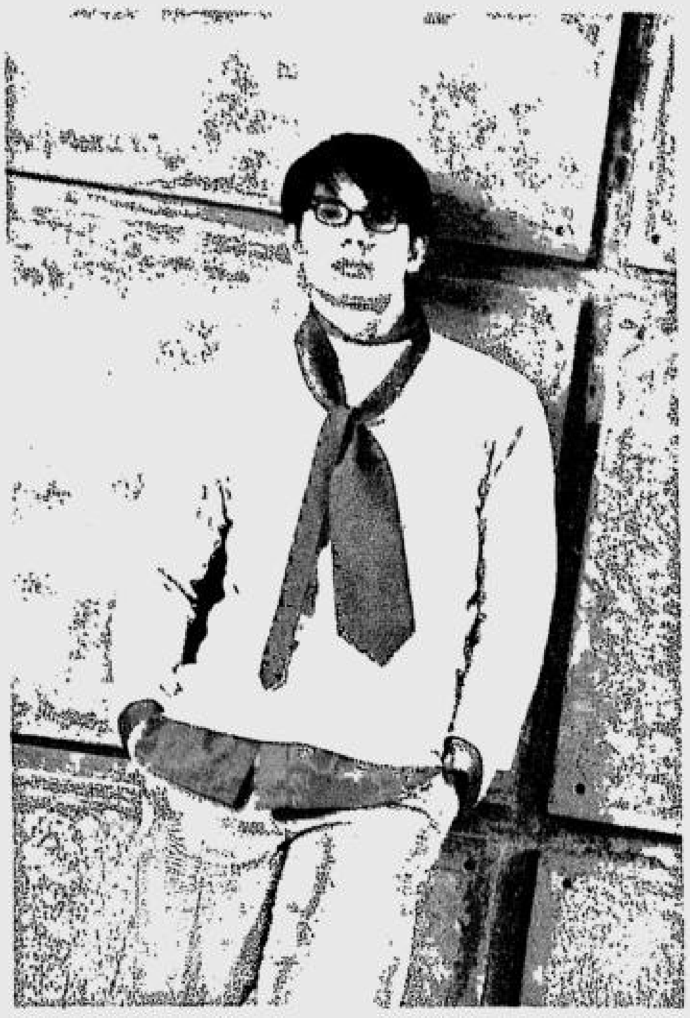


WESTERN look with a twist. Checkered shirt goes with these stretch denim jacket and blue flat-front pants.

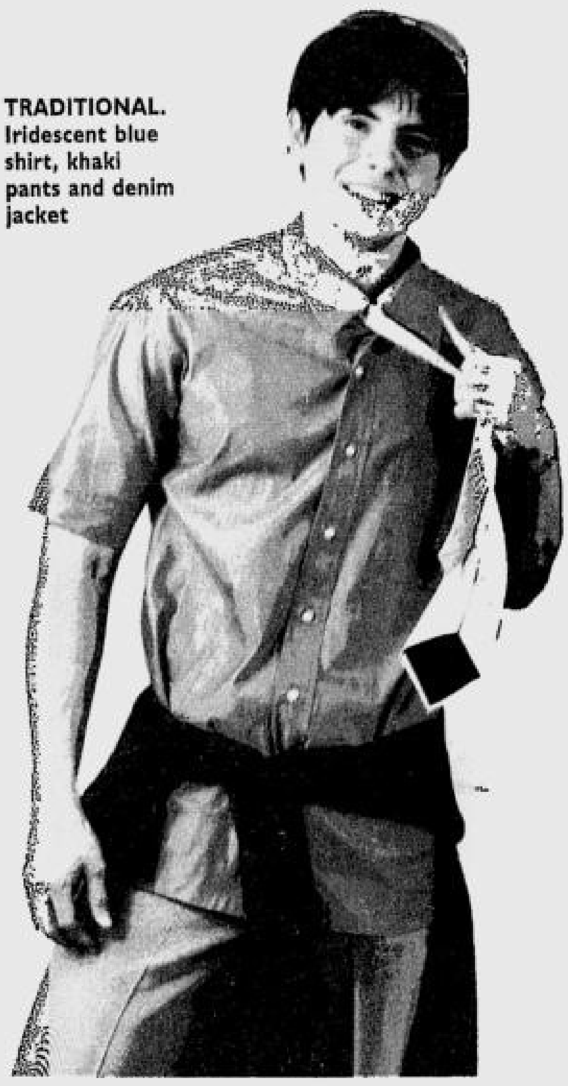


LAYER it with this light blue stretch cotton shirt, dark round-neck knitwear blouse with a detail in ecru.

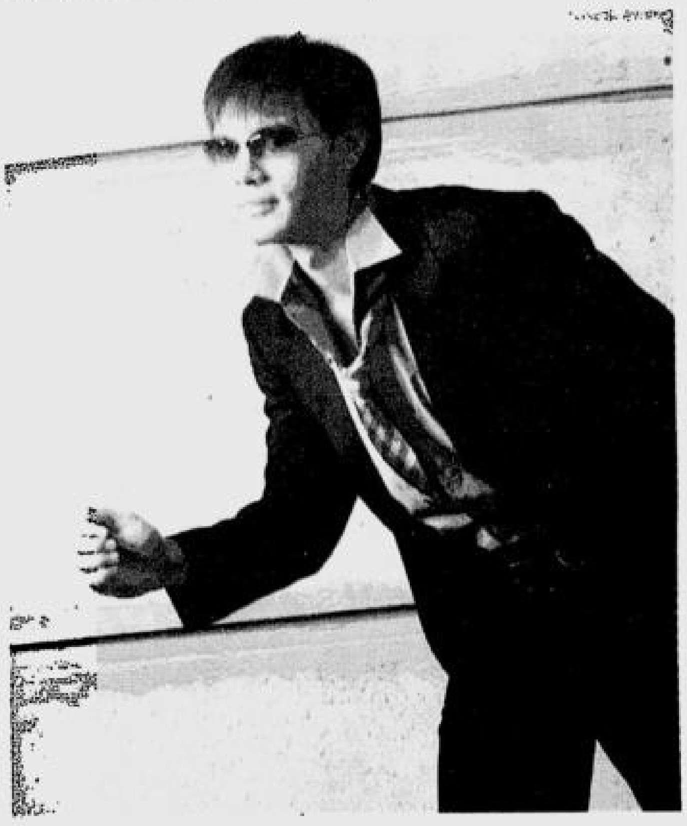


FOR A DRESSY occasion, wear this iridescent red button-down shirt under a mock neck rib knit top and khaki flat-front pants.

Nocom's somewhat adventurous male



TRADITIONAL. Iridescent blue shirt, khaki pants and denim jacket



FOR EVENING. Black three-button peak lapel single-breasted jacket, flat-front pants and light blue cotton shirt with a convertible collar.

Photos by Patrick Uy

MEN'S clothes may not have the flexibility of women's fashion, but there's certainly room for styling. This is how SM's house designer Anthony Nocom has evolved. In the late '80s and early '90s, men bought the office staples—slacks, button-down shirts and suits. Nowadays, Nocom dresses up Christopher de Leon in "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"

For off-hours, Nocom has been offering his trademark mock turtleneck cotton-knit shirts and ribbed knit tops.

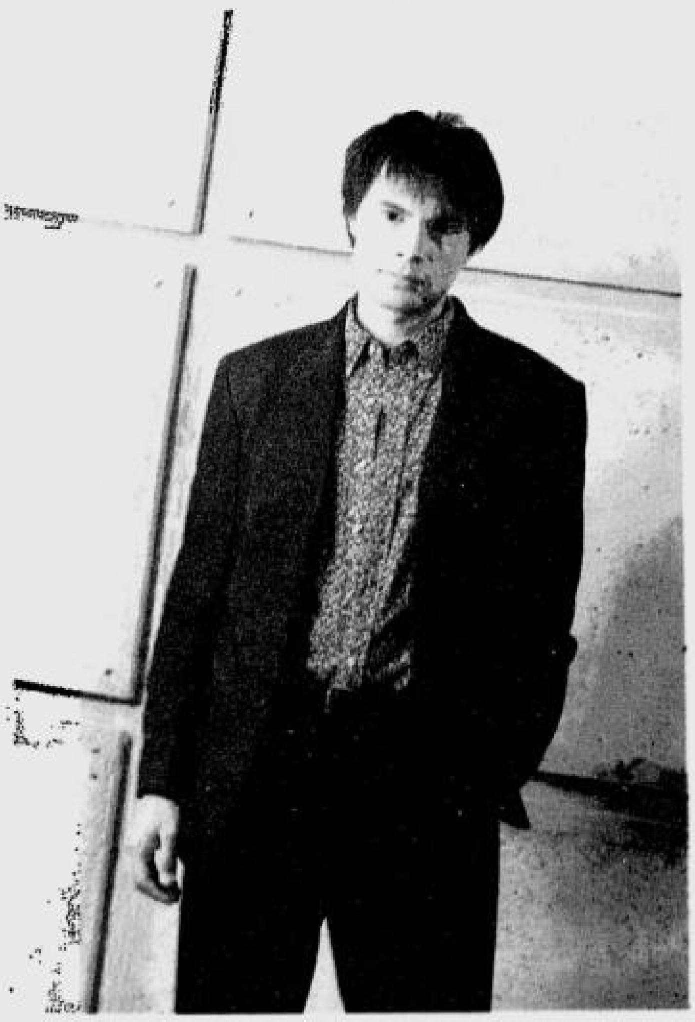
After years of plodding along in basic blues and browns and stiff working clothes, men are getting to be more adventurous. They are more open to brighter colors; they will knot their ties in a unique way; they are open to layering.

Filipinos are generally casual dressers. To them, the long-sleeved shirt or polo shirt with slacks is already being dressed up. However, consumers are getting more sophisticated in wearing casual clothes. They want a shirt made from great fabric and a nifty tie that will take them for office to cocktail.

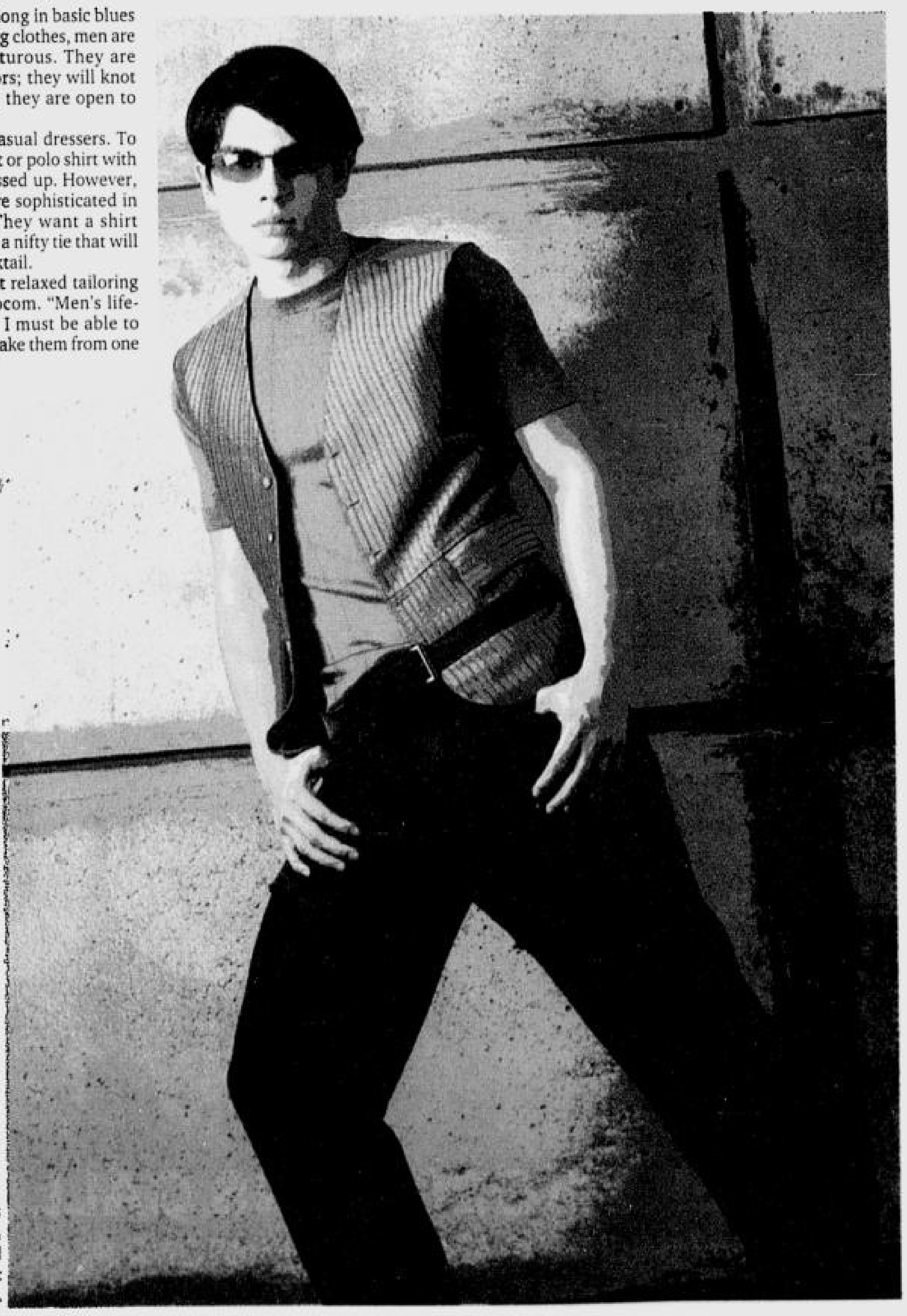
"My clothes are all about relaxed tailoring and coordinates," says Nocom. "Men's lifestyles are different today. I must be able to give them clothes that will take them from one occasion to the next."

MODELS:
SIMON AND JOE VINCE
OF CAL CARRIE'S
INTERNATIONAL
GROOMING:
ROCKY GIMENEZ
AND CHECHEL JOSON

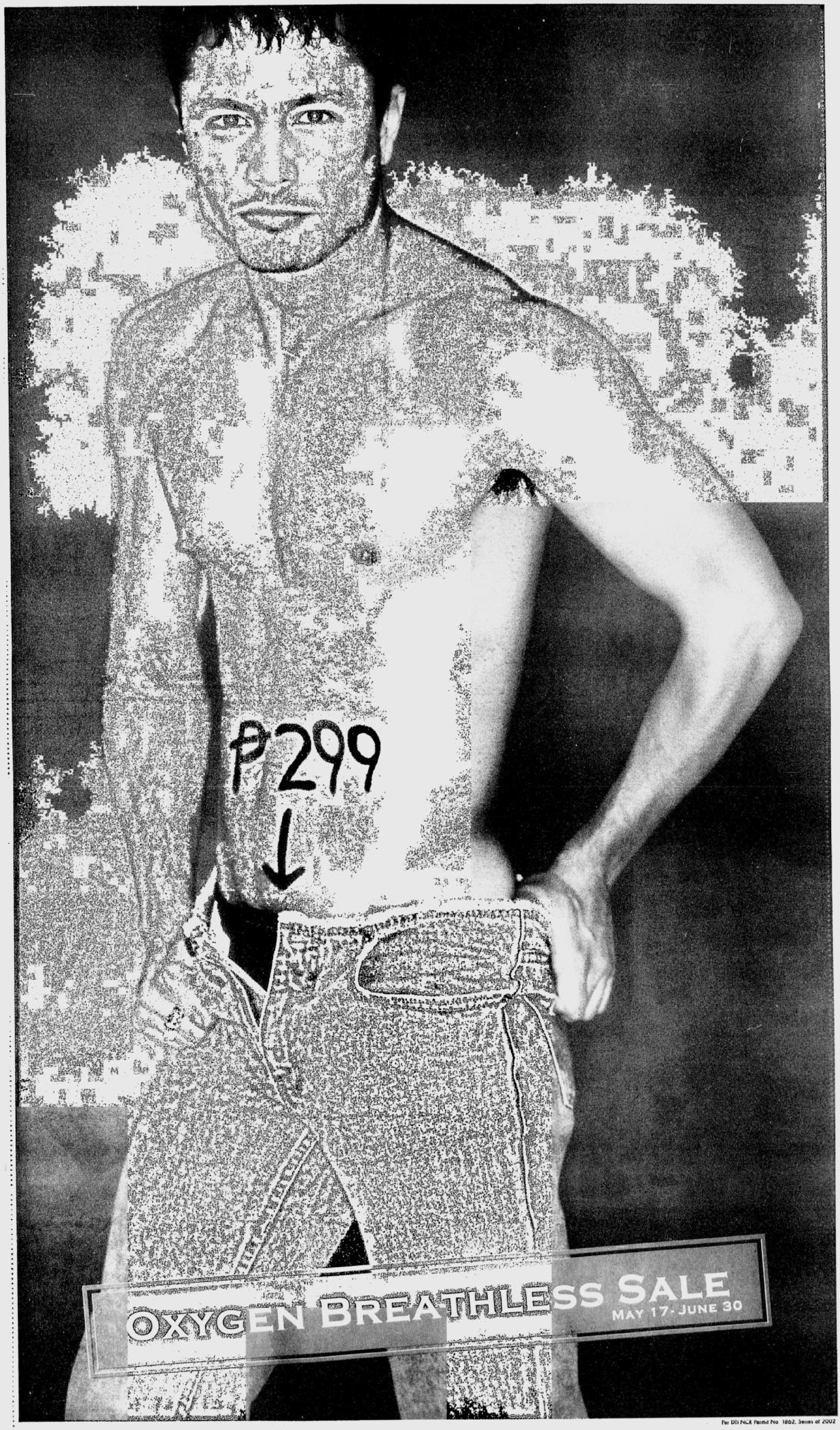
SM's house designer has slowly guided how the Filipino male has been dressing since the late 1980s



SIMON wears a denim three-button jacket over floral printed shirt and navy flat-front pants.



JOE Vince wears this rib knit shirt, chocolate striped sharkskin linen vest and frayed denims.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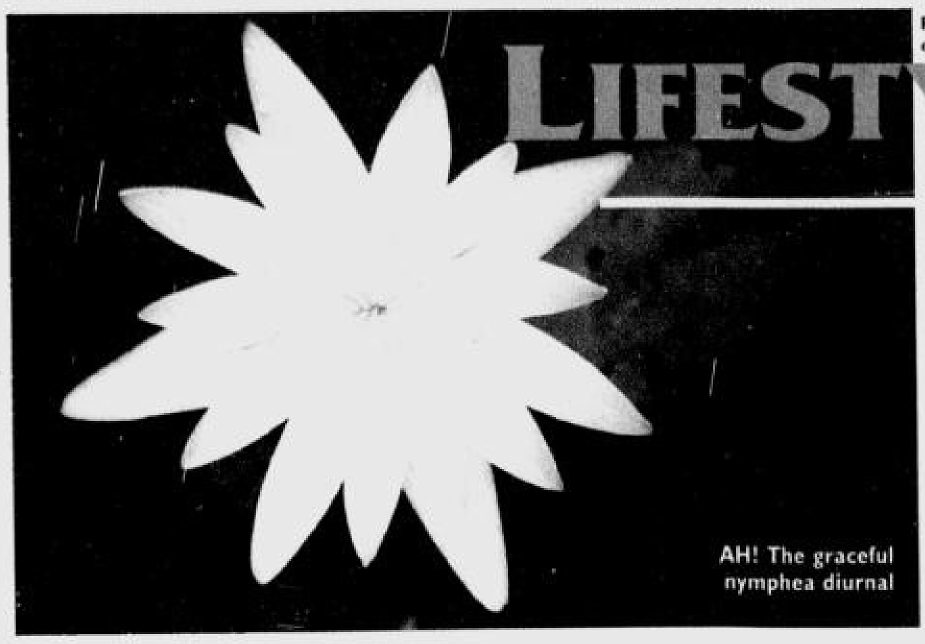
AH! The graceful nymphea diurnal

Is it the stereotype flowers floating on the 'kawa,' old railroad tracks and travelers palms?

GALPHIMIA shrubs add color, too. Wading birds can add some charm!

Defining the Manila garden style

By Adrian Lizares
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina

COFFEE-TABLE books have loads of photographs that best embody what I call the Manila garden style. The style has evolved through decades of sheer creativity.

I believe the profession of landscape design was born when people moved to this new place called Makati in the late '50s and '60s from traditional residential areas in the old Manila districts like Paco and Malate and in old Pasay City.

Before this, there had been no indication we had the equivalent of Robert Olmstead, one of America's most influential and revered landscape architects. But during this same era of flourishing American landscape design, the Philippines had Daniel Hudson Burnham (1846-1912), the architect of the Burnham Park in Baguio, the federal-style Luneta area, and Roxas Boulevard. He was also responsible for the city layout of Chicago.

The birth in the '50s of the Manila garden style with its manicured look complemented many prim and proper houses in Makati. Trees were planted, and probably, the most notable survivors are the acacia trees on McKinley Road. Society was then dominated by a set dedicated to leisurely social activities, leaving the gardener to do the work in the garden.

The artistry of the first-generation landscape designers set the tone for the Manila garden style we now see.

Many in Manila's elite society wanted some semblance of neatness in their interiors. They also probably required the same for their gardens. The manicured look was born, with curving lines and gracious concrete water fountains that were later on given so much ethnicity by indigenous design, like the *kawa* and the floating glass fishing balls. The *kawa* was always a main feature in the old garden. It was a decorative piece that held water for plants.

Rocks were used as accents, borrowing a

DEFINING/ p.F4

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Ingredients:

Marinade:

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2 tbsps.	AJI-TOYO
1 tsp.	black pepper
1/2 tsp.	AJINOMOTO GINISA FLAVOR MIX
1/8 tsp.	AJINOMOTO
1 1/2 tsp.	onion leeks, chopped
1 tsp.	sesame oil
1 tsp.	sesame seeds, toasted
1/4 kilo	beef short ribs, cut into bite-size pieces
1 cup	water

Procedure:

In a bowl, marinate beef short ribs in sugar, AJINOMOTO SOY SAUCE, black pepper, AJINOMOTO GINISA FLAVOR MIX, and AJINOMOTO for at least one hour. Boil beef short ribs in marinade and water (just enough to cover the meat) until tender and water has subsided. Add sesame oil in pan, and pan-fry beef short ribs, onion leeks and sesame seeds. Makes 4 servings.

Note: Pork or chicken can be used instead of beef.

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Great ideas for dream weddings

GOINGS-ON

JUNE brides can get inspiration and great ideas from PowerBooks' Bridal Festival this May. Join a free wedding talk, "Dream Weddings for the Modern Filipina," tomorrow, 2-4 p.m., at PowerBooks Arnaiz, Makati. Listen to Bride and Home's Apples Aberin-Sadhwani and Andrea Passion-Flores as they share tips and secrets on putting together a dream wedding to fit any budget. Open to all, registration for the event will start at 1 p.m. The first 20 registrants of the day will receive a special gift pack courtesy of Bride and Home. A special bridal furniture display by Trousseau is ongoing at PowerBooks Arnaiz until May 29, with design ideas interpreted from the newest interior design books that you can recreate in your new home. Call PowerBooks at 844-4455 or e-mail ibid@powerbooks.com.ph.

BOOK LAUNCHING. Francisco "Kit" Tatad's book, "A Nation on Fire," will be launched today at the Podium's exhibition lobby, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center.

"A Nation on Fire" is Tatad's eyewitness account of the trial and ousting of Joseph Ejercito Estrada and the "remaking of democracy in the Philippines." It contains a complete record of Estrada's impeachment trial, and an analysis of the anti-Estrada coup and its effects on the country's constitutional order and institutions.

Published by Icon Press Inc., the book contains a chapter on how to remake and relaunch the nation in the wake of its shattered institutions.

Hardbound and paperback editions of the 675-page book will be available later at reasonable prices at National Bookstore outlets and other leading bookstores in the country.

HOMECOMING. The Eastern Samar State College (ESSC) Alumni Association will hold its grand alumni homecoming tomorrow at the ESSC Multipurpose Hall. Call (055) 261-2731.

CAMP ADVENTURE. The camp is open to those aged 12-19. The Teen Camp adventure is ongoing until tomorrow at the Manolo Lopez Development Center Sumulong Highway, Antipolo, Rizal. Call 632-7553, 687-0162/0510.

SPECIAL EVENT. The Peninsula Manila, with events organizer Rita Neri of The Wedding Store, presents "2002 Events at The Pen" on May 24-25 at the Rigodon Ballroom, The Upper Lobby and The Gallery of the Peninsula Manila.

The event will provide corporate booking agents with a one-stop-shop featuring the top names in corporate giveaways and luxury retail purveyors. It will also have experts in bridal fashions, floral design, invitation printing and engraving, makeup, keepsakes, photography, cakes, shoes accessories dispensing invaluable advice to engaged couples. This event will likewise provide them with the opportunity to interact and personally consult with wedding professionals on their dream wedding.

On May 25, two fashion shows are set at the Rigodon Ballroom. The shows will feature the corporate line of Maidenform, JC Buendia, Mel Vergel de Dios and Njork; the collections of Gerry Katigbak and Vittorio Barba and Njork; and the evening and bridal fantasies of Maidenform, Natori, Mel Vergel de Dios, Edgar Madamba, Len Nepomuceno-Guia, Patrice Ramos Diaz, Randy Ortiz, Gerry Katigbak and Paul Cabral. Call 887-2888 local 2236 and 2914 (Banquet Sales) or The Wedding Store at 893-0534 or 840-1897.

UP forum focuses on educational TV programs

EDUCATIONAL television productions that have earned recognition from the Japan Prize International Educational Program Contest and the Philippines' Anak TV Seal will be screened at Seameo Innotech Center at the UP Diliman campus during the Japan Prize Asian Special Session in the Philippines until May 18.

The theme of the forum is "Producing Quality Educational Television: Issues and Strategies," and it aims to enhance the quality of educational television (ETV) programs and programming in the Philippines.

It will look at ways to equip producers, directors, scriptwriters, program buyers and educational technology experts with skills in developing and selecting programs appropriate to specific learning situations. Through exchange of ideas and experiences, the forum will also seek to draft a set of standards and guidelines in producing quality ETV programs.

Forum participants will include broadcast professionals from the academe, the commercial television industry and nongovernment organizations involved in educational programming.

This event is organized by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (Seameo Innotech), Hoso Bunka Foundation, Japan Broadcasting Corp., Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas and the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children's Television. Call 924 7681 local 84.

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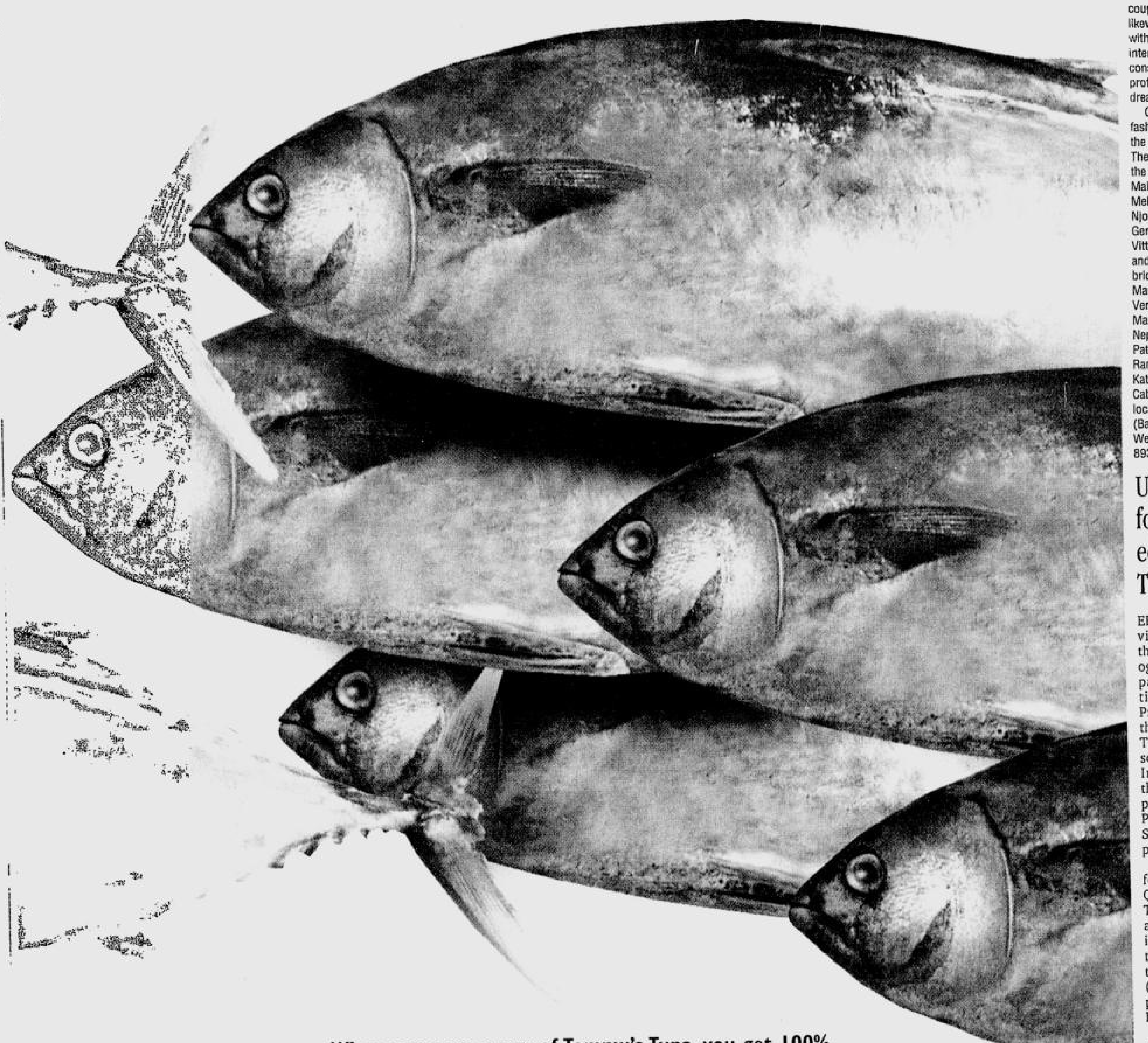

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CREATE a cozy atmosphere in your bar, lanai or hallway with this embossed brick-designed wallpaper from Our Home.

Wallpaper wonders

IF walls could speak, Our Home's decorative wallpaper collection would celebrate personal style and understated elegance. These include well-known brands such as Essef, Vymura, Prima and Rainbow.

With the right choice of paper, walls can be manipulated to make a large room appear more intimate, refined, or charming, just as they can make a small space feel more expansive. Here are some tips to keep in mind from Our Home:

Make your living room walls clear and refreshing by selecting a pleasant, neutral color enlivened by a semi-gloss or high-gloss finish.

Dining rooms, like bedrooms, are the rooms traditionally most likely to use wallpaper. Cover the walls here more simply so they won't be limited or compete with the colors and textures of table arrangements, eating accessories, and the decorative objects on the walls and surface area.

If you like decorating your walls with prints, mirrors, quilts, or porcelain plates, choose simple solid or striped wallpaper designs.

Kitchens are busy-looking by nature, and the walls are usually broken into odd shapes. If you favor patterned wallpaper, pick one with a small repeat so it can be cut up, but still retain the intended impact.

The colors of the bedroom are important, and blue is still the most popular color scheme because it is so soothing and contemplative. Whatever you decide upon, try to have clarity in all your colors.

Run with the imagination of your child in choosing wallpaper for your kids' room. Go with it whether a child's fancy takes him from teddy bears and school buses to rocket ships and rock stars. The important thing to remember is to scale your choices to the room's proportions.

Add texture to your walls with embossed brick or concrete designed wallpaper.

The collection is available at Our Home, the lifestyle store that offers great designs at great prices. It is located at the G/F SM Megamall A.

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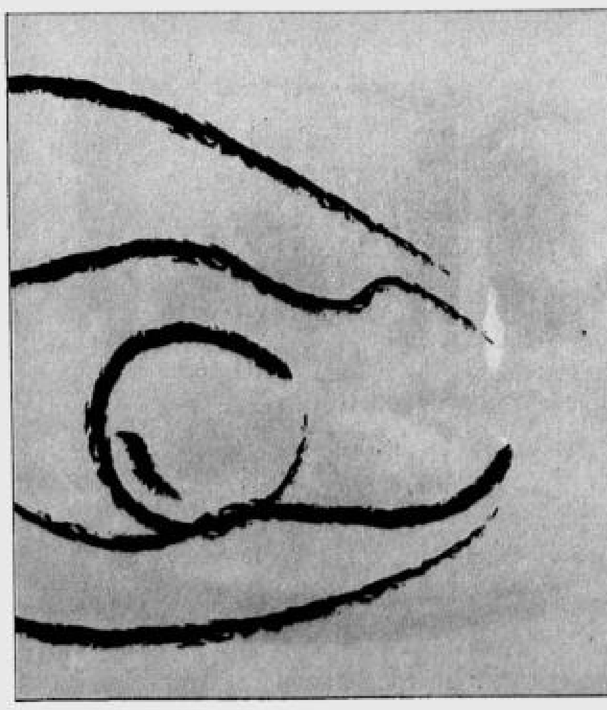

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May 26 Pangkat Kawayan
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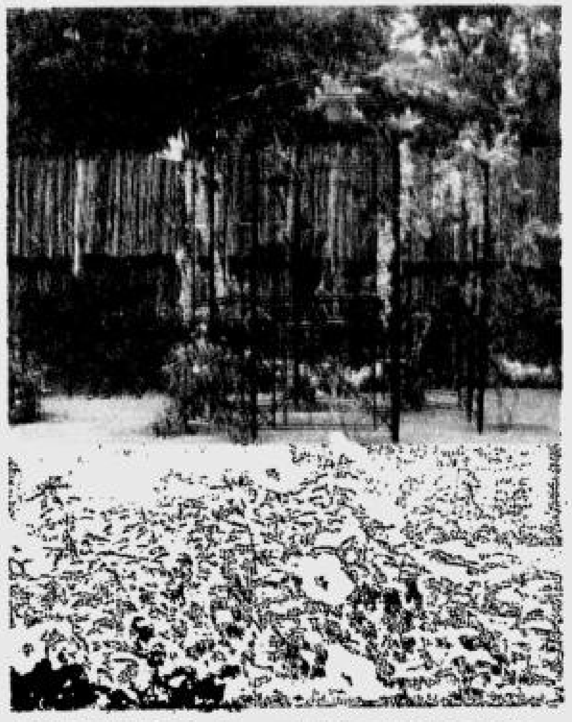
June 2 Maranao Cultural Show
June 8 Drum and Lyre



THE PASSIFLORA will eventually cover the gazebo. *Bakawan* trunks are used as wall cover.

MODERN and sleek lines are complemented by similar schemes in the garden.

ARCHITECTURE is complemented by a great resource of established planting materials.

Defining the Manila garden style

From page F1

little from the Japanese look, with many a lantern to prove the point. This was 30 years ago. No one wanted to look a bit too wild during those days.

Today, many descendants of the first generation of Filipino garden designers have flourished, distinguished by hard work and resourcefulness. They cater to wealthy patrons who prefer neat, grand, and rather showy gardens. They are aided by plant growers who can deliver a mature Pacifica palm, hundreds of bromeliads and the Cuban royal palm to give any garden that instant look.

Inos' trademarks

Lorenz Inos (0918-5103412) is a self-taught garden designer who has put resourcefulness into good use, drawing heavily from the creativeness of earlier Filipino garden designers while asserting his own style. He uses zigzag adobe rocks for the wall interspersed with creeping vines and moss. His gardens feature stone liners that double as plant boxes, giving the garden a three-dimensional look where required. Flowing water is an essential part of Inos' work. His strength lies in his choice of plants. The family grows more than a hundred varieties of bromeliads, most of which are adapted to the climate in Manila. He recommends only 12 hardy varieties, which his family has in abundance.

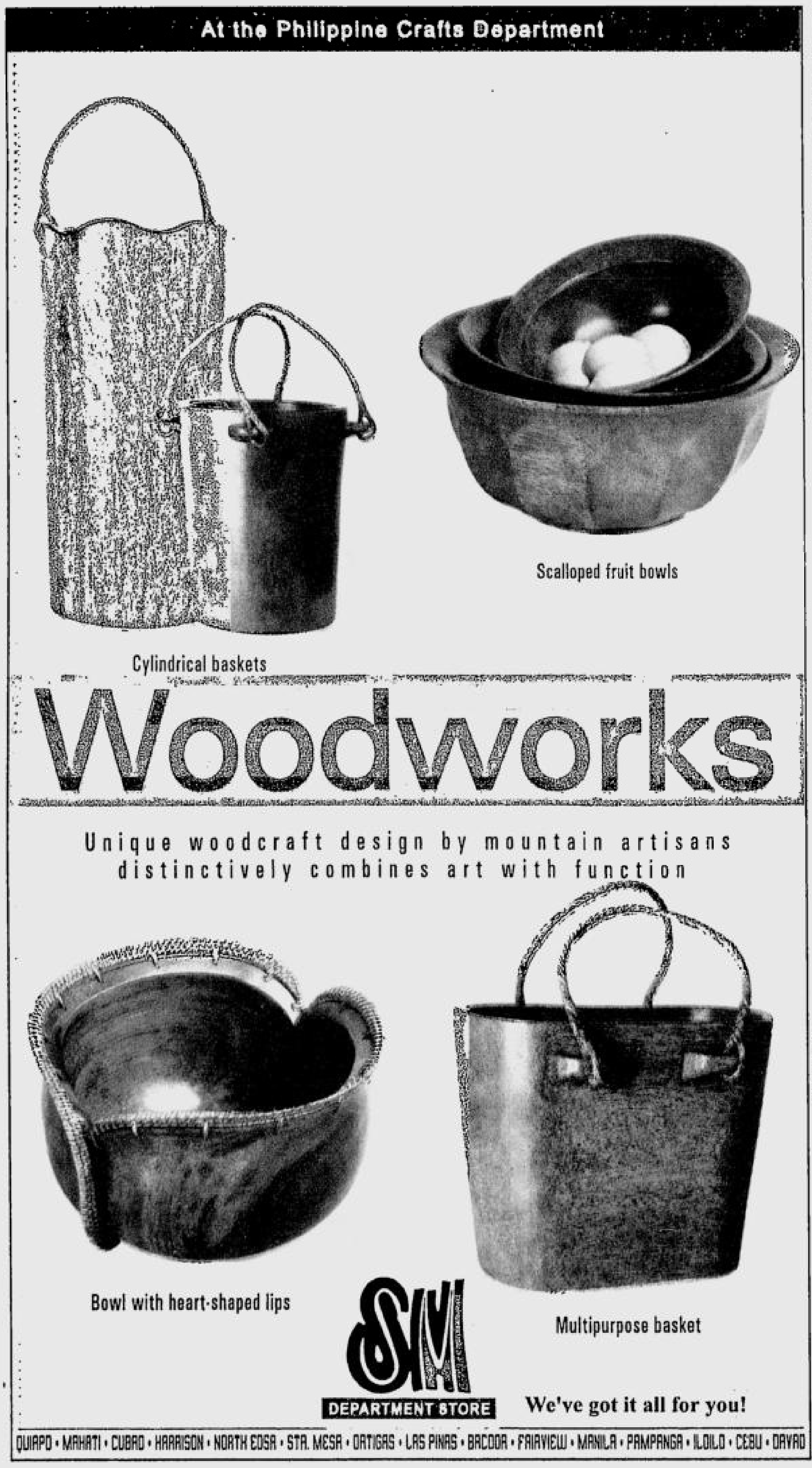
In today's world, there seems a need for adventure, for the spirit to embrace what is new while paying due respect to the past. This should also be reflected in the work gardeners do. There is so much to choose from these days and a garden's design should really be a matter of taste.

E-mail the author at campoman@yahoo.com

THE PACIFICA palm is a beautiful and fairly large piece! Bromeliads thrive in perfect health!

FALSE yucca, pygmy *pandan* and *vanda* in the foreground

THE MINIMALIST approach



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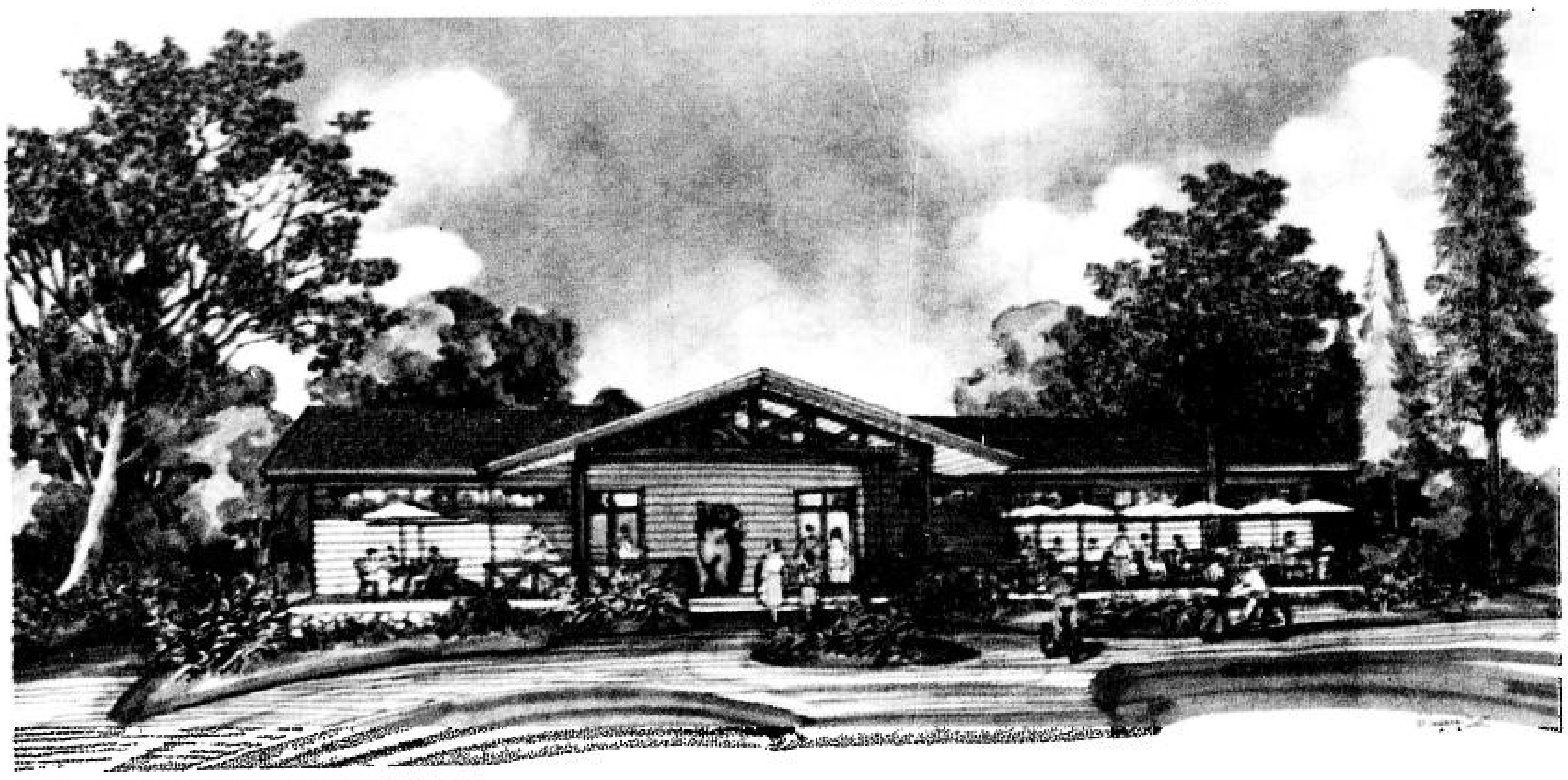

Miranda regrets not being able to come home from the US when he placed 8th in the architectural board exams

A native returns

HAVING been based in the United States for a long time working with top people in his field on several high-profile projects, Ronald Miranda might be expected to show rigidity and hauteur. But despite the impressive achievements, he is amiable with a ready smile for everyone and childlike curiosity.

Miranda is the president of 260 Inc., an eight-year-old architectural firm whose impressive client list includes the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Prudential Life, Globe Telecom and the Supreme Court of the Philippines. A new addition is Yats Group of Co., the Hong Kong-based developer that invested recently P400 million to build the exclusive Clearwater Country Club in the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga.

Miranda points out, however, that 80 percent of 260 Inc.'s projects are in other Asian countries like South Korea, Indonesia and Vietnam.

Asked what sets his relatively young firm apart, Miranda says, "I teach my staff to do things correctly in terms of our profession. [I tell them]... to give them more options than required."

He believes in getting different ideas from people. "What I imbibed from working in the US is the combination of ideas from many people. It's more of teamwork."

Holistic architecture

Miranda espouses the holistic way in architecture. "You have to know your overall idea first before you can go into the details." He cites the work done in Makati's commercial center as a good example of the holistic approach. "Before, they were doing everything piece by piece. What they've done now is to consolidate [everything, making Ayala] a more powerful destination... because [of] a mixture of activities."

RONALD Miranda

Miranda graduated with a degree in architecture from the University of the Philippines in 1983, worked for one of his professors for a year then went to the US joining international firms such as Ellerbe Becket, Fox and Fowle Inc., Kohn Pederson Fox Conway in New York and Bobrow Thomas and Associates in Los Angeles.

The only thing he regrets about his stay in the US was not being able to come home when he placed 8th in the architectural board exams.

He is thrilled with the Clearwater Country Club project in Clark (tel. 844-5795 to 96 or [045] 599-5949). "I haven't seen anything like it," Miranda says. "It's a fun project. The idea of having water as a feature would be unique for Clark. The idea there is to be able to say: 'I just swam in a lake this weekend.' "

The country club will allow members to enjoy a northern American lifestyle with manmade lakes, air-conditioned tents, villas and other water attractions evoking images of the Adirondack regions.

At the same time, Miranda hopes Filipinos will also see something familiar. "In the province, people swim in the river. You can fish. That's a lifestyle we'd like to have here but in a controlled environment."

Miranda set his eyes on an architectural career when he was only 6 or 7 years old. His fate was sealed after his parents returned from a foreign trip. "In 1967, my mother and father went to Japan. They brought home a Lego set," he recalls with amusement. At that time, Filipino children were not familiar yet with Lego sets. "I would assemble [the blocks] and make a house. *Tuwang-tuwa ako doon.* So I said to myself: *'Uy, mukhang* okay *din ito ah.'* "

What made Miranda come home and start his company?

"I guess it's the opportunity to share what I've learned there," he says. "It's [also] quite difficult to raise a family there." To get started, Miranda says, "What I did basically was tap people who have passion for their work and those who have experienced working abroad... We get people to be part of a team and to help develop the team as a whole. We want team players and people who can think for themselves."

Soprano and PPO in benefit concert

THE SANTUARIO de San Antonio Parish Fiesta Committee led by chair Justa Katigbak Tantoco has organized a fund-raising concert for the construction of a larger prayer chapel in the parish's grounds in Forbes Park. The chapel will be patterned after St. Francis' chapel, the Porziuncola, in Subasio, Italy. The benefit concert, "For the Love of San Antonio," will feature noted soprano Camille A. Lopez and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Ruggero Barbieri. It will be held at 7:30 p.m. on June 7 in the air-conditioned parish church at Forbes Park. Tickets are available at the parish office, or call 843-8830 for reservations.

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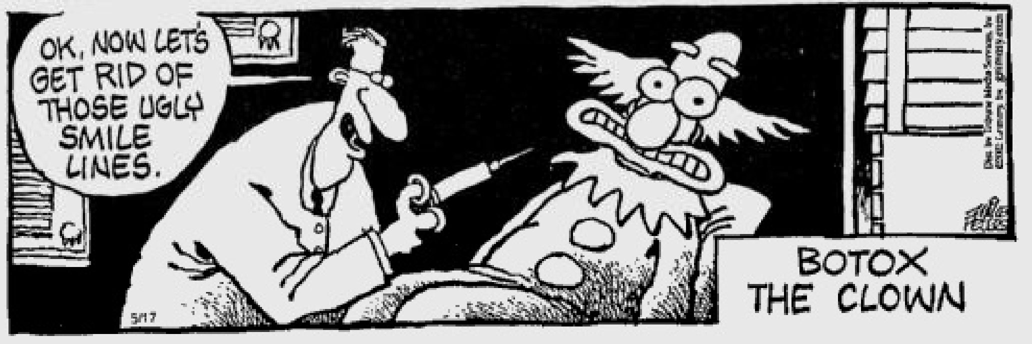
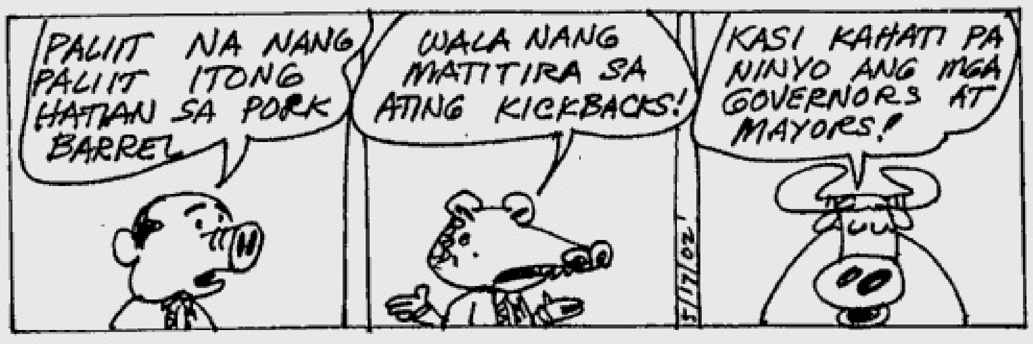
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


OK, NOW LET'S GET RID OF THOSE UGLY SMILE LINES.
BOTOX THE CLOWN
5/17

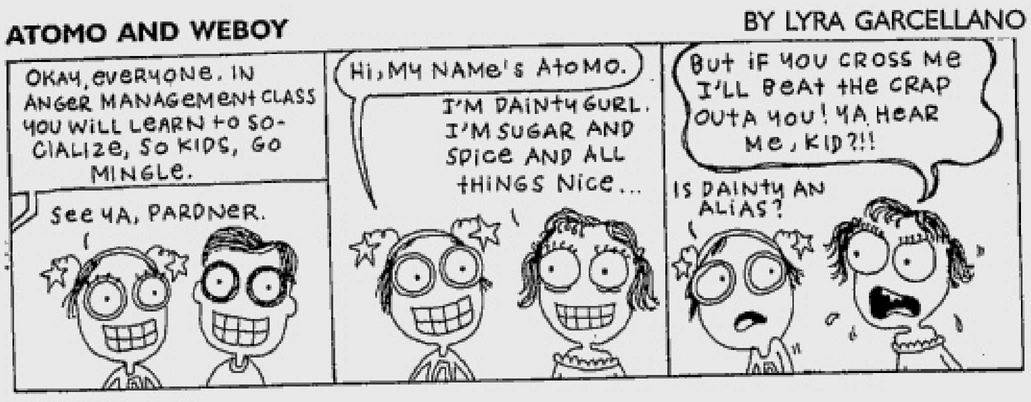
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PALIT NA NANG PALIT ITONG HATIAN SA PORK BARREL
WALA NANG MATITIRA SA ATING KICKBACKS!
KASI KAHATI PA NINYO ANG MGA GOVERNORS AT MAYORS!
5/17/02

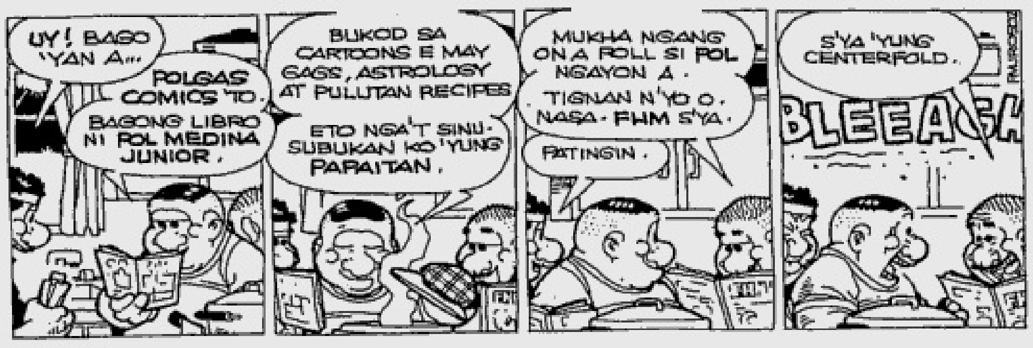
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OKAY, EVERYONE. IN ANGER MANAGEMENT CLASS YOU WILL LEARN TO SOCIALIZE, SO KIDS, GO MINGLE.
SEE YA, PARDNER.
HI, MY NAME'S ATOMO.
I'M DAINTY GURL. I'M SUGAR AND SPICE AND ALL THINGS NICE...
BUT IF YOU CROSS ME I'LL BEAT THE CRAP OUTA YOU! YA HEAR ME, KID?!!
IS DAINTY AN ALIAS?

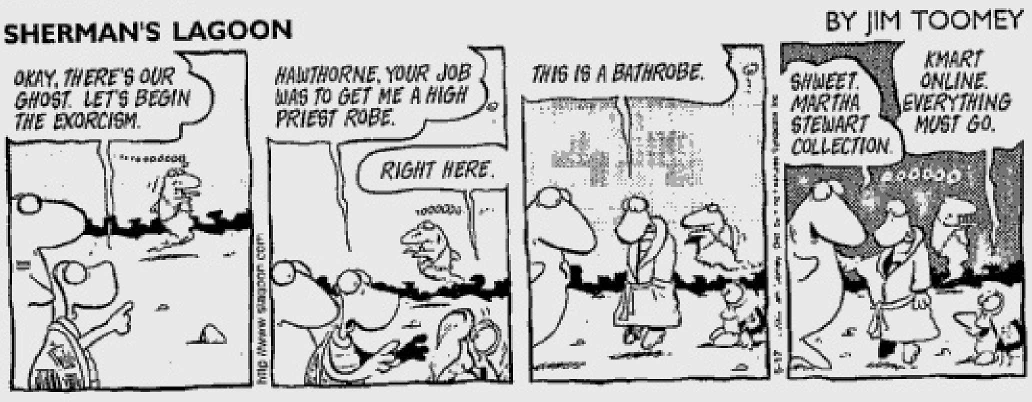
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


UY! BAGO 'YAN A...
POLGAS COMICS 'TO.
BAGONG LIBRO NI POL MEDINA JUNIOR.
BUKOD SA CARTOONS E MAY GAGS, ASTROLOGY AT PULUTAN RECIPES.
ETO NGA'T SINUSUBUKAN KO 'YUNG PARAITAN.
MUKHA NGANG ON A ROLL SI POL NGAYON A.
TIGNAN N'YO O. NASA FHM S'YA.
PATINGIN.
S'YA 'YUNG CENTERFOLD.
BLEEAGH

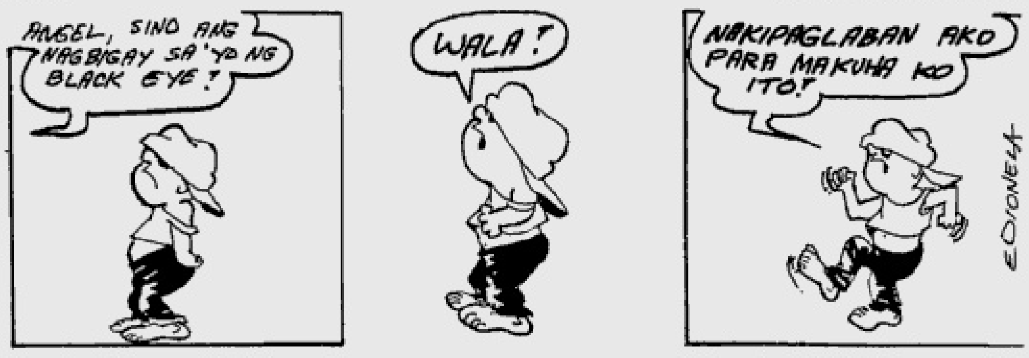
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, THERE'S OUR GHOST. LET'S BEGIN THE EXORCISM.
HAWTHORNE, YOUR JOB WAS TO GET ME A HIGH PRIEST ROBE.
RIGHT HERE.
THIS IS A BATHROBE.
SHWEET. MARTHA STEWART COLLECTION.
KMART ONLINE. EVERYTHING MUST GO.
http://www.slagoon.com

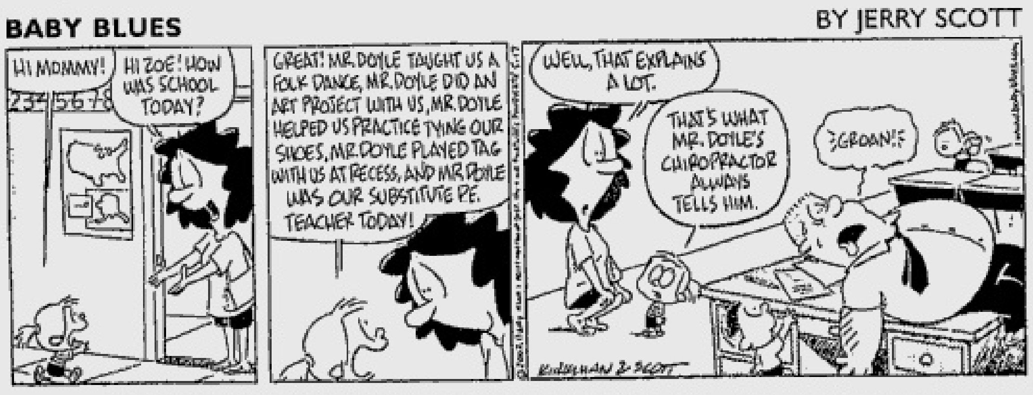
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANGEL, SINO ANG NAGBIGAY SA 'YO NG BLACK EYE?
WALA!
NAKIPAGLABAN AKO PARA MAKUHA KO ITO!
EDIONELA

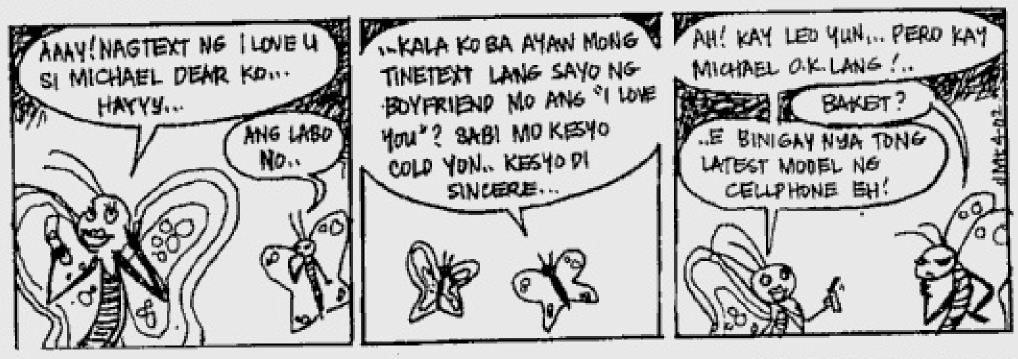
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HI MOMMY!
HI ZOE! HOW WAS SCHOOL TODAY?
GREAT! MR. DOYLE TAUGHT US A FOLK DANCE, MR. DOYLE DID AN ART PROJECT WITH US, MR. DOYLE HELPED US PRACTICE TYING OUR SHOES, MR. DOYLE PLAYED TAG WITH US AT RECESS, AND MR. DOYLE WAS OUR SUBSTITUTE P.E. TEACHER TODAY!
WELL, THAT EXPLAINS A LOT.
THAT'S WHAT MR. DOYLE'S CHIROPRACTOR ALWAYS TELLS HIM.
GROAN!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


AAAY! NAGTEXT NG I LOVE U SI MICHAEL DEAR KO... HAYYY...
ANG LABO NO..
..KALA KO BA AYAW MONG TINETEXT LANG SAYO NG BOYFRIEND MO ANG "I LOVE YOU"? SABI MO KESYO COLD YON.. KESYO DI SINCERE...
AH! KAY LEO YUN... PERO KAY MICHAEL O.K. LANG!..
BAKET?
..E BINIGAY NYA TONG LATEST MODEL NG CELLPHONE EH!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dennis Hopper, Sugar Ray Leonard, Bob Saget

Happy Birthday: Yours will be a role of leadership in personal financial affairs this year, so take a serious look at your insurance policies, investments and wills. You will make friends and acquaintances as quickly as you will lose them. You must learn what you can from those you encounter and move on. Your numbers are 9, 11, 15, 26, 39, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Concentrate on what's important today and forget about trying to please everyone else. Don't get involved in fast-cash schemes that are too good to be true.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A new relationship will unfold through friends or family. If there is someone from your past that you still think about, this would be an ideal time to get in touch with them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will want to get involved in some sort of new venture or enterprise. Don't be too willing to invest your own money just yet. Do your research before you get in so deep.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Romantic opportunities will flourish through group or organizational activities. Your attitude is changing with regard to your personal life and your direction. Try something new today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Hidden assets will be discovered. Private discussions regarding money or ideas will be favored today. You can put money in long-term investments for future use or to ensure security in years to come.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Opportunities will unfold if you give a little of your time to a worthy cause. You will meet distinguished individuals who will be able to help you make vital connections to get ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Changes at home may be unavoidable. You must listen to the concerns and try to do whatever is possible to make amends. Make sure you finish what you start so you can enjoy the weekend worry-free.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take the day off if you can. An early start on a weekend jaunt will put you in the right frame of mind. Travel and communication will be the highlight today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take heed of a good lead that someone gives you. You may find something interesting if you are observant. You must be honest with yourself regarding your feelings.

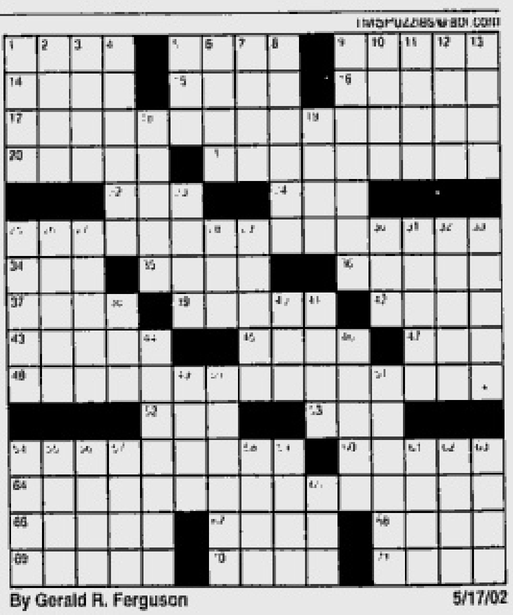
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be able to make amends with someone you haven't seen for a long time. Make the first move and you won't be sorry. Partnerships will lead to all sorts of new possibilities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You should expand your interests. If you take the initiative to learn more about your job and the possibilities that are present you will be able to advance. The more you put into what you do the better the results will be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you really want to make changes, now is the time. Social events will lead to newfound friends. Whatever you do, it must be enlightening, creative and bring about change.

Birthday Baby: You will surround yourself with people who can help you get ahead. You will always be looking and listening for new ideas that will help you achieve the power you desire. You are a thinker and a doer.

DAILY CROSSWORD


tmspuzzles@aol.com

By Gerald R. Ferguson
Portland, OR

5/17/02

ACROSS
1 "Star Wars" princess
5 Whiskey shot
9 Sublease a flat
14 Composer Khachaturian
15 Ballot
16 University of Maine town
17 Nursery tabloid headline
20 South Korea's capital
21 Hair woe
22 Grp. for mom-&-pop stores
24 Thole insert
25 Nursery tabloid headline
34 All of the guys
35 Beverage made from honey
36 Fool
37 Pro __
39 Look of scorn
42 Speech unit
43 Of sheep
45 __ and slack
47 Anger
48 Nursery tabloid headline
52 Clothe
53 Attila, e.g.
54 Disconcert
60 Computer memory units
64 Nursery tabloid headline
66 Alphabetical quintet
67 Partial prefix
68 Jai __
69 Parts of pipes
70 Title for M. Clouseau
71 Cravings

DOWN
1 Sci. classes
2 Sal's canal
3 Villain of Venice
4 Trap attack
5 Movie on a PC
6 Theater seating
7 On the peak of
8 Pittsburgh philanthropist
9 Dais
10 First name in mysteries
11 Type of shark?
12 Oklahoma city
13 "Sixteen __"
18 Photo book
19 Authoritative decree
23 Greek Mars
25 Pulsate
26 Intermesh
27 Roman port
28 "The Joy Luck Club" author
29 Utopian
30 Lay low the poa
31 Cook on a grill
32 "The Maltese Falcon" co-star
33 Finished
38 Jillian or Landers
40 BPOE member
41 Reckless
44 Of a mammal's cycle in heat
46 Divers' acronym
49 Spelling of "Trick"
50 Career grand slam tennis champion
51 Regardless
54 Schedule figs.
55 __-Chandon champagne
56 Runny cheese
57 Bomb type
58 Spotted
59 Saxophonist Zoot
61 Narrative
62 Vigor
63 Alpine transport
65 Pinch

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

O	B	J	E	T	■	E	M	I	R	■	M	O	N	A
L	L	A	M	A	■	T	E	T	E	■	Y	V	E	S
L	A	P	U	R	C	H	A	S	E	■	O	A	R	S
A	B	E	■	H	O	Y	T	■	M	E	L	L	O	N
■	■	■	T	E	L	L	■	S	P	E	D	■	■	■
C	A	S	H	E	D	■	W	E	L	L	K	N	I	T
A	R	I	E	L	■	O	H	I	O	■	Y	O	R	E
R	E	N	E	■	S	P	I	N	Y	■	H	O	W	E
I	N	K	Y	■	C	A	R	E	■	R	O	S	I	N
B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L	■	L	U	M	E	N	S
■	■	■	S	U	B	S	■	N	I	N	E	■	■	■
A	P	L	O	M	B	■	S	O	S	O	■	O	P	T
L	E	A	F	■	A	R	T	R	A	V	E	L	E	R
S	E	C	T	■	R	O	O	M	■	E	L	I	T	E
O	R	Y	X	■	D	E	W	S	■	R	I	N	S	E

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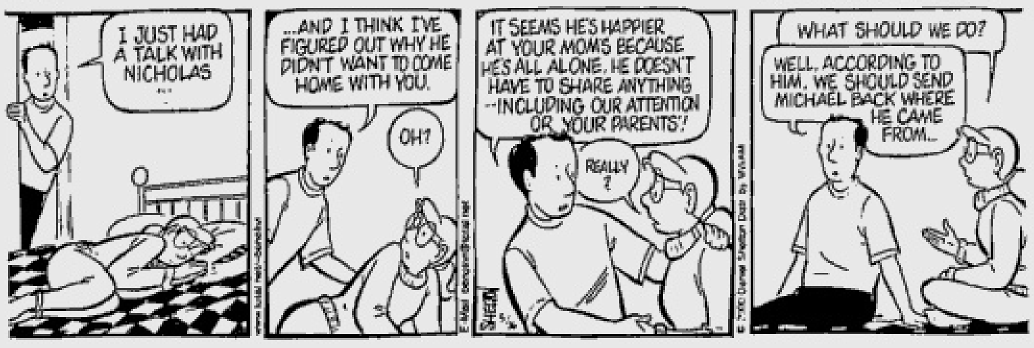
5/17/02

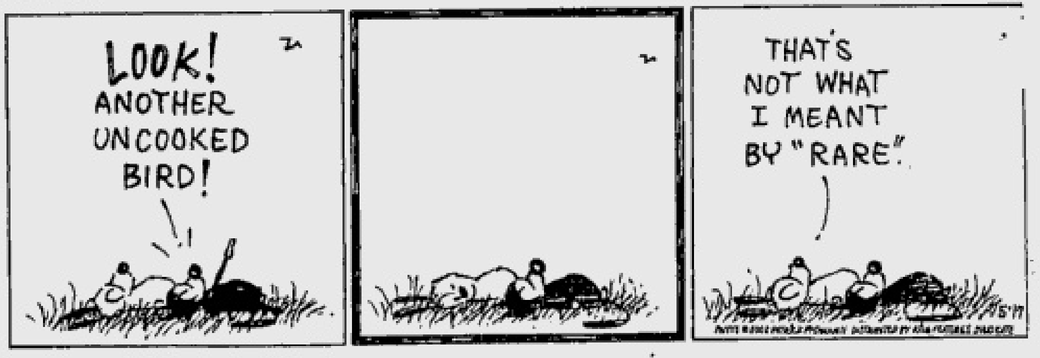
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I JUST HAD A TALK WITH NICHOLAS ...
...AND I THINK I'VE FIGURED OUT WHY HE DIDN'T WANT TO COME HOME WITH YOU.
OH?
IT SEEMS HE'S HAPPIER AT YOUR MOM'S BECAUSE HE'S ALL ALONE. HE DOESN'T HAVE TO SHARE ANYTHING --INCLUDING OUR ATTENTION OR YOUR PARENTS'!
REALLY?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
WELL, ACCORDING TO HIM, WE SHOULD SEND MICHAEL BACK WHERE HE CAME FROM...

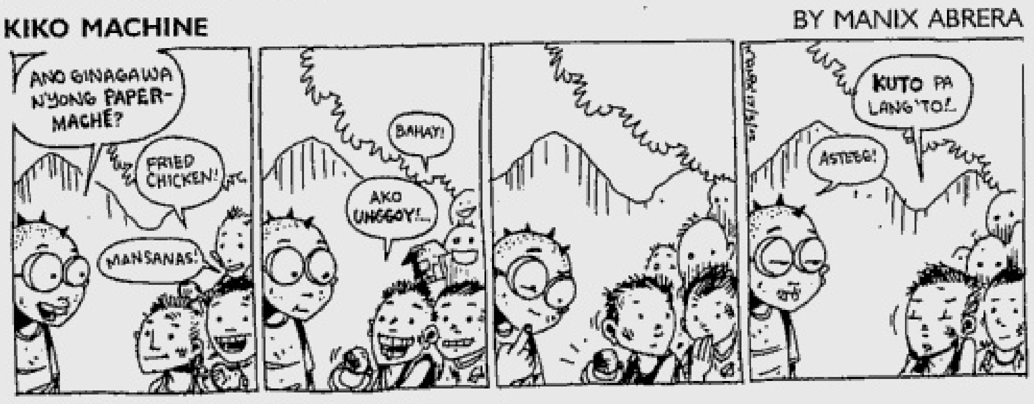
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LOOK! ANOTHER UNCOOKED BIRD!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT BY "RARE".
5/17

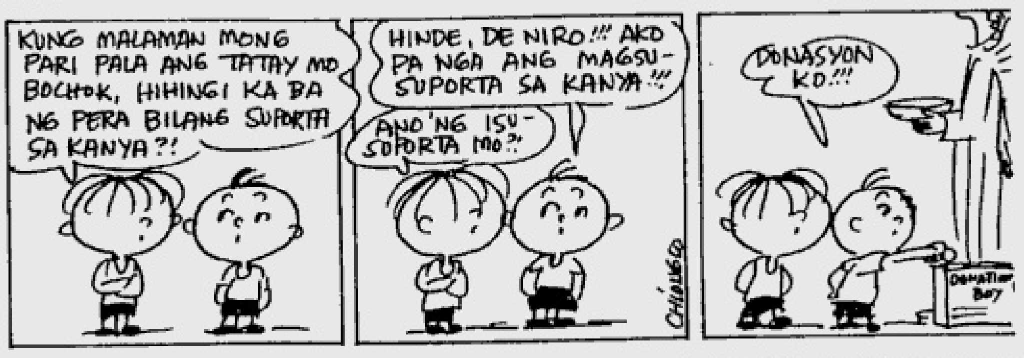
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ANO GINAGAWA N'YONG PAPER-MACHÉ?
FRIED CHICKEN!
MANSANAS!
BAHAY!
AKO UNGGOY!
KUTO PA LANG 'TO!
ASTEEG!

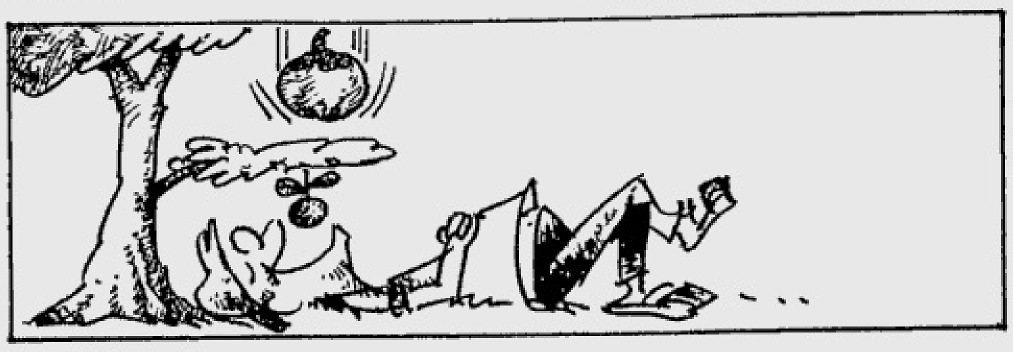
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KUNG MALAMAN MONG PARI PALA ANG TATAY MO BOCHOK, HIHINGI KA BA NG PERA BILANG SUPORTA SA KANYA?!
HINDE, DE NIRO!!! AKO PA NGA ANG MAGSUSUPORTA SA KANYA!!!
ANO'NG ISUSUPORTA MO?
DONASYON KO!!!
DONATION BOX
CHIONGLO

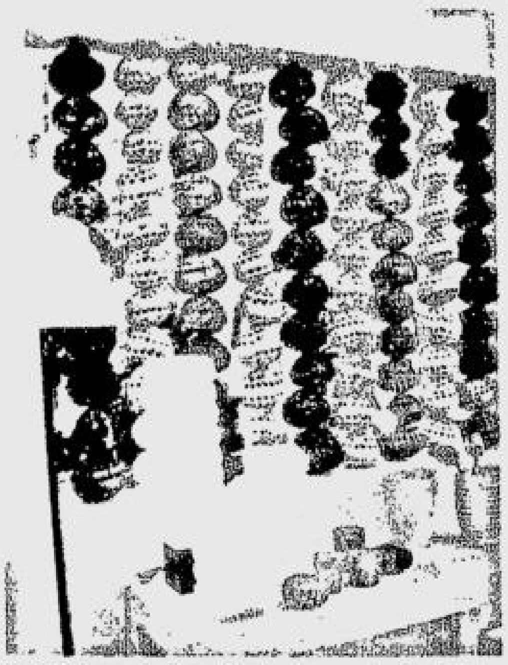
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



VELASCO poses with birdbath of cast stone which also acts as plant holder.

FROM THE LA Padua collection, a chair and stool set of bleached mahogany upholstered in pale yellow leather

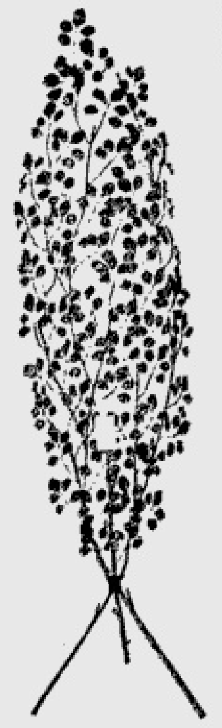


SCREEN made of perforated coconut shells by TN Phils. Table lamp and candleholder are of *capiz* shells.

JAR-SHAPED table with matching stool of coco shell from Catalina. Square wall lamp of same material

Design—and full of it

By Doris G. Nuyda
Contributor
Photos by Chito Vecina



CLUSTERS of *malunggay* leaves are the backdrop for this candleholder.

Recent CITEM trade shows reaffirm that Filipinos are gifted with design flair

FOR MORE than a decade, the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem) has been sponsoring two annual trade shows—one in October, the other in April—set up by Manila International Fame (MIF) to showcase the high quality of gifts, houseware and fashion accessories created by our craftsmen and designers.

Last April, it opened in three venues—the World Trade Center, the East Pavilion, and the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC)—with enclosures to link each to the other.

There were 450 exhibitors, divided into three subfairs, namely Palengke (a marketplace for home ideas), Tindahan (the fashion store) and Paskuhan (a gathering of Christmas décor). As is fast becoming a tradition with MIF shows, merchandising design consultants were selected by the exhibitors to help them conceptualize the theme and look of their booths. So it is the combination of beautifully crafted articles in artistic settings that made the visitor linger at each place to admire what this country has to offer, and then place orders.

If one needs to find the true spirit of the Filipino, it is in shows like these where his creative talents come to the fore, and the flair with which he draws from his traditional and cultural roots reveal an innate artistry.

The three consultants are Conrado Velasco for Palengke, Arnel Papa for Tindahan and Kim Lipfert for Paskuhan. Reimon Gutierrez presented products from cottage industries in the Partner Region Program which this year focused on Samar, Biliran and Leyte.

To add spice for innovators and designers, Katha Awards were presented to the most attractive in various categories, an activity that underscored the show's theme of "Design + Quality."

We certainly found a lot of design, all imbued with quality.

Velasco's style

Velasco, a consultant for 16 companies, is a designer who loves to rise from convention at every opportunity. He does this by utilizing the basic lines of an object, whether it is a chair, a box or a vase, in order to create what he calls "tension in proportion and form." A pedestal chair, for example, needs only two or three lines to design, and so with other furniture pieces. He thus achieves minimalism in most of his work, except when he includes shapes like a cluster of leaves or foliage, in which case he renders them in realistic form. But as often as he can, he prefers clean, straight lines. There are times when he creates something whimsical, and about this, he says, "When not useful, it should be beautiful," meaning that beauty is its own excuse for being.

One must admit, however, that nothing is useless under his touch. Some samples: a birdbath of cast stone, with a vase attached to hold a few plants; a metal stand to hold a solitary candle, dramatized by a cluster of sculpted *malunggay* leaves at the back of the stand. Velasco also designed a curio piece—a table that is also a lamp stand done mosaic style. He describes it as a table that grew out of a lamp, or a lamp that grew out of a table.

Velasco's wicker settee was designed with naughty undertones. It features arms rolled up cornucopia fashion, facing opposite directions. The seat is roomy and tilts slightly on one side in keeping with its role as a seat for lovers.

Velasco calls most of his items "storage furniture" because somehow they always provide space for keeping things. Even the Oriental-inspired box with an extra-elongated lid, opens to a hollow for holding something—pins and needles.

James Bond vases

The Angeles City-based Weaverscraft booth was set up like an actual living room. There were many uses for Manila hemp, usually on metal frames, like the chairs, which were upholstered in handwoven hemp. The legs of a glass-top table were wound in hemp. A lamp base was made with hemp, as well as its shade which also used the core of the coconut husk.

A rocking chair shaped like a banana leaf was a conversation piece. It rocked on its cantilevered tubular legs and its seat and back were woven with a combination rattan core and leather. Similarly woven was the Weaverscraft collection of boxes, racks, even a "treasure" chest with leather sidings.

From papercraft manufacturer, Mind Masters, came table décor made of paper cut from newspapers and magazines, which president and product designer Tes Pasola calls "James Bound" vases—shaped round, tall or squat, these unusual vases bind the pages in such a way that they can be flipped with the fingers. It received a Katha Award.

At First Binhi Arts and Crafts , the focus was on rustic baskets, topiary, furniture and visual aids made of twigs and vines, and wild flowering grasses. At the Locsin International booth on the other hand, a "Womb" chair was the center of attention. Framed in metal, it had a round shape with leather straps crisscrossing its seat and back. There were also lamps of woven rattan in trapezoidal shapes.

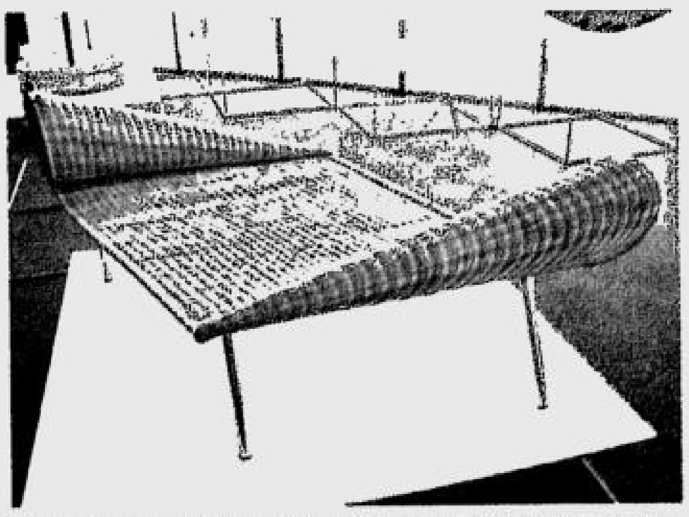
At Padua International, long noted for its wood furniture, Vincent Padua, president and CEO, showed the reason for his furniture's high rating. On display was an "Ovo" wing chair that deviates from the conventional by its use of woven corded leather for its upholstery and that of the matching stool. A sectional sofa called "Denise" is shaped like an L, and while it takes up space, it achieves a lightweight look so well favored in modern houses. Another eye-opener was a chair from the La Padua collection that featured a bleached mahogany frame and upholstery in leather in a yellow shade. These displays received awards in the Best Booth and Best Visual Merchandising categories.

Stunner

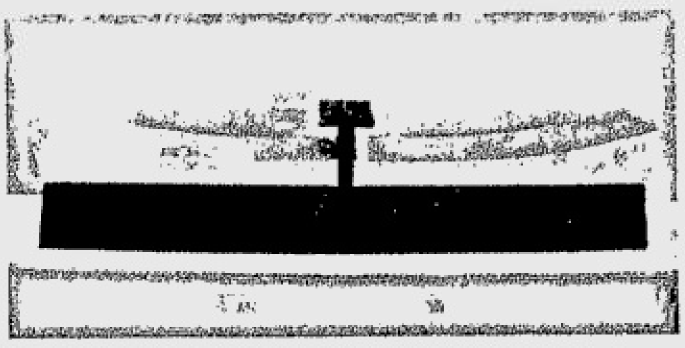
Another stunner was on display at The Gilded Expressions booth set up by president and CEO Amy Pamintuan. This was a three-paneled "Peacock" screen, about 5' tall, each panel filled with sculptured wire with copper accents that seemed to spill and roll in concentric circles. Lamps supplied sculptural candlelight to match.

TN Philippines used a lot of *capiz* shells, mainly for lamps. One lamp, about 3' square, lit up a wall. Another, a floor model, had a shade of wicker and fiberglass. There was a mottled black and white bamboo lamp from a Rachy Cuna design and an arrangement of more *capiz* lamps in jar shapes. TN also displayed round *capiz* shells strung in a circle and lit from within. A screen with rows of coco shell cutouts belied its rural origin, for polished and artfully strung together, it turned into a sophisticated wall screen.

Filipinos should make it a point to visit trade shows like this one set up by MIF, if only to bask in what our country has to offer in the field of design and craftsmanship. We are full of talent, and the wonder is why more of us don't try to get into the act. It seems to come so easily, so naturally. All we need is a little more jostling to set us on our way.

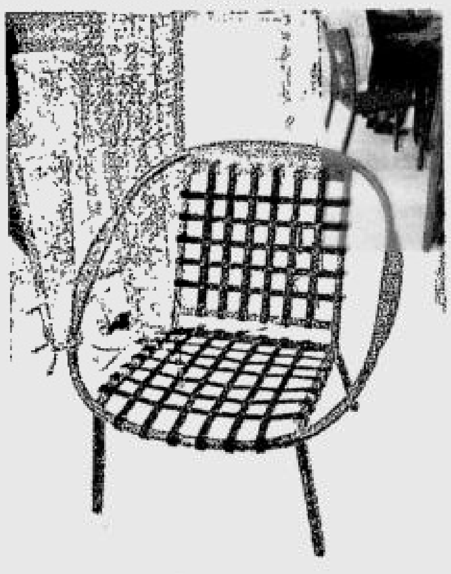


LOVE seat of wicker with cornucopia arms by Conrado Velasco



BOX with elongated lines by Velasco

STORAGE bins, magazine racks and a "treasure" chest from Weaverscraft combine natural weaves with leather.

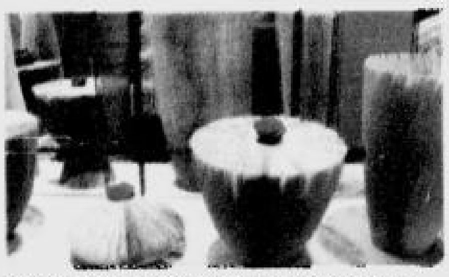


"WOMB" chair from Locsin International is a snug item with leather straps crisscrossing its seat and back.

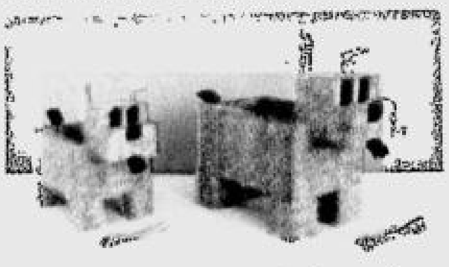
"OVO" wing chair and matching stool from Padua International are made of woven corded leather.

CERAMIC vase or candleholder with matching bowls with lids from Cielito

POP art fashion made of grass, reeds and feathers from Binhi Arts and Crafts



PAPERCRAFT from Mind Masters includes decorative pieces recycled from old newspapers and magazines, like these "vases."



PAIR of dogs made of recycled paper by Velasco

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Home LIFESTYLE

A Palawan fancy

SIGNS of an artist's home

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Wahoo Guerrero

CULTIVATING a childlike imagination is vital to good interior design.

No one does it better than artist Elena Roces who has got the adventurous spirit and spunk of youth even if she's already pushing 80.

Elena's weekend studio lies in the mouth of Puerto Princesa Bay, close to where the ships dock. A few meters from the house, one can go snorkeling and spot corals and barracudas. Elena's house is located on a 4-hectare property inherited from her father, Don Ramon Roces, founder of the Manila

A PALAWAN/ p.G2

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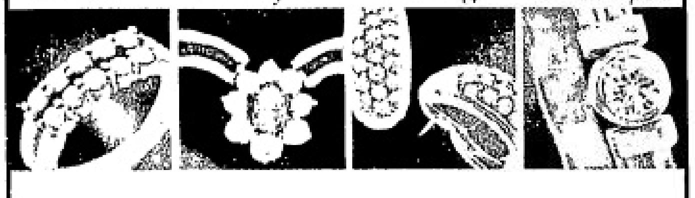

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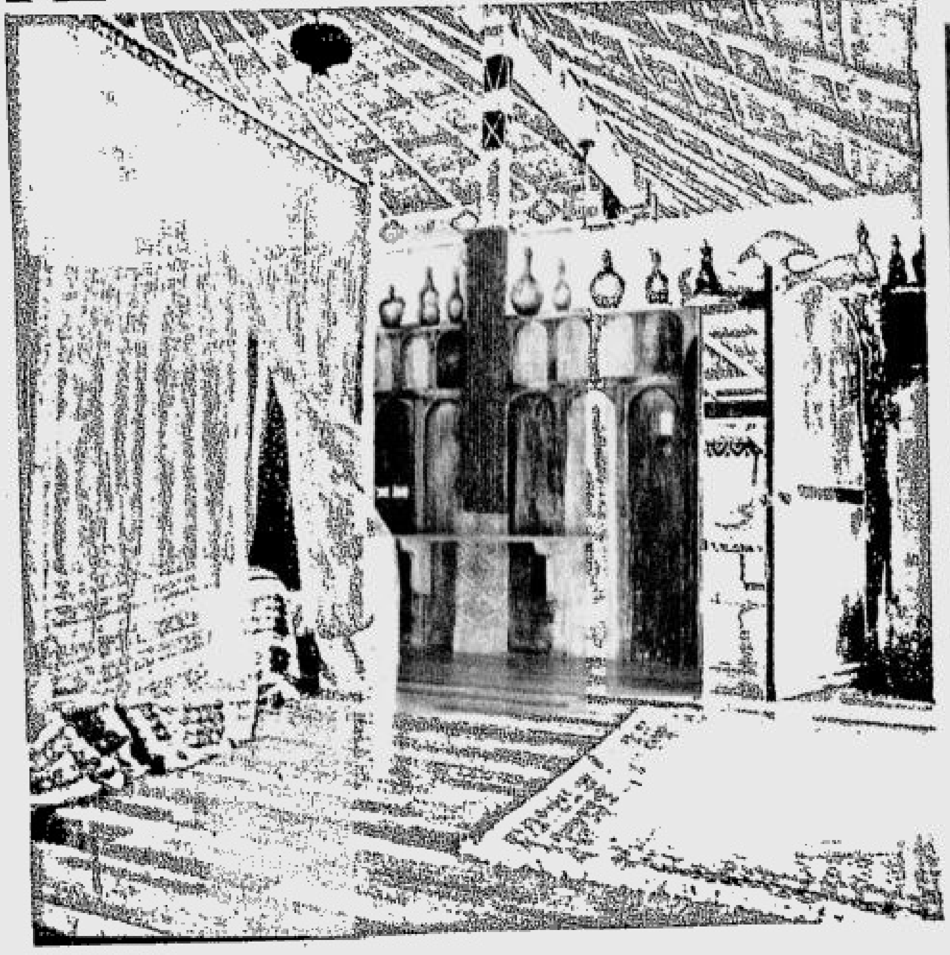


THE MASTER bedroom is grand in scale and rich with gypsy appointments. Sheer drapes flow over the bed. Trompe l'oeil gives the illusion of a cabinet.

YELLOW is the color of creativity. The florid pattern on the door is common to Elena's homes.

A Palawan fancy

Elena Roces' weekend studio in Puerto Princesa City jolts the eye with its tropical joie de vivre

From page G1

Times.

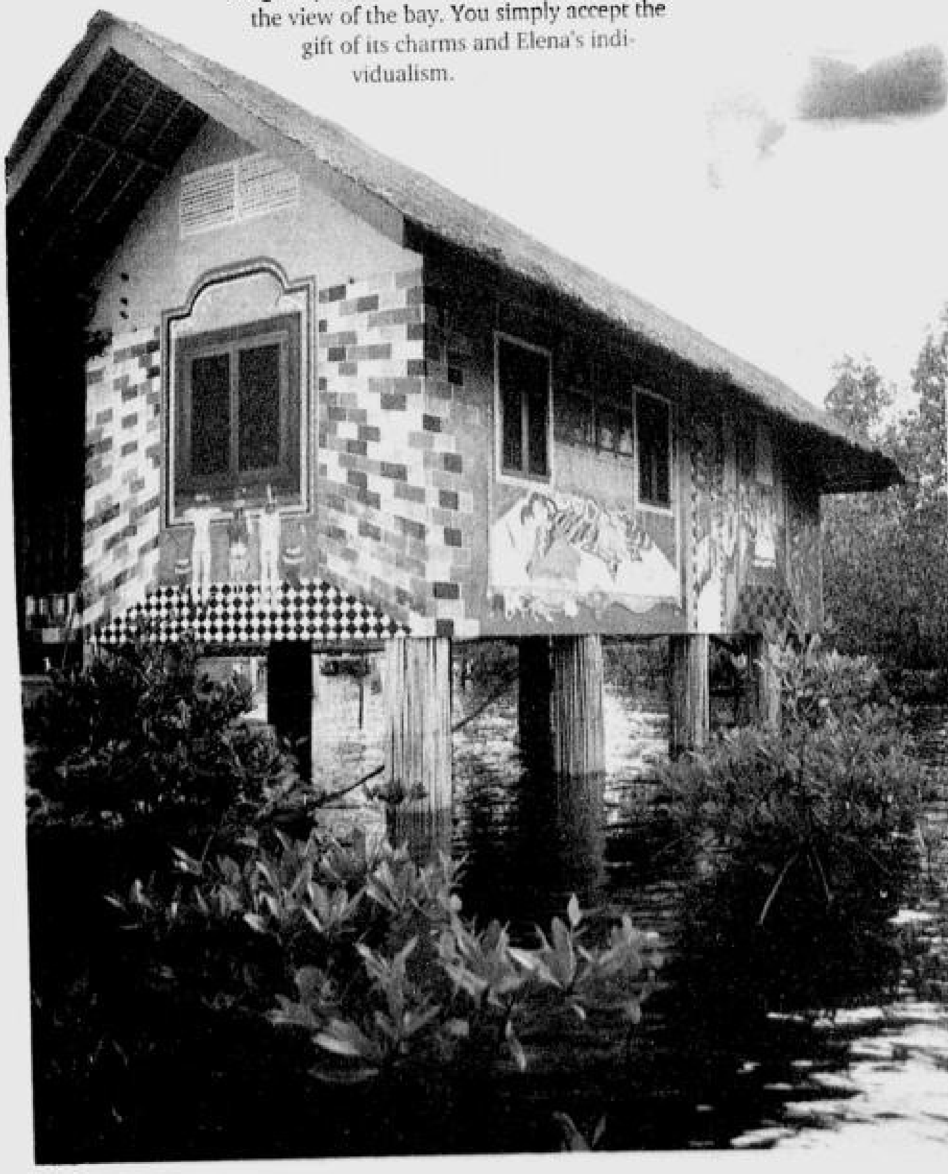
Columns wrapped in coconut husks hold up the studio. Geometric details are stenciled on the lower beams. The door, painted with wild geese, acts as the focal point of the simple façade, assembled from local wood.

The simplicity of the façade contrasts the tropical joie de vivre of the interior. Roces loves to surround herself with trompe l'oeils. The inside is a bohemian burst of colors, textures and murals. A large thatched roof is raised over an open space divided by a partition. This is the only wall that divides the living space that focuses on living and dining activities and the master bedroom. To maximize the space, a television set is mounted on a revolving panel, giving the person the option to turn it on and watch TV either in the living room or in the bedroom.

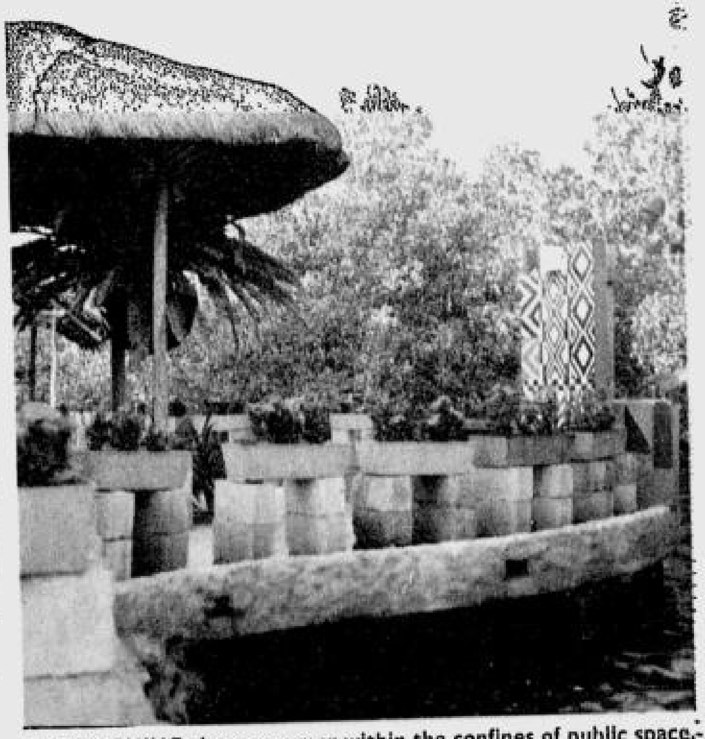
Floor-to-ceiling screened windows evoke the feeling of spaciousness and become links to the outside world. The views of the bay and mangroves become part of the rooms. She also paints the walls in sunburst colors and creates murals depicting nature and the sea. In the shower area, instead of a shower spout, there's a 12-ft ledge from which water flows like a waterfall.

The charm of Elena's studio lies in the fact that she doesn't follow rules of design. Instead, she follows her own instincts. When you first walk in, just as when you see the waters, you can't exactly tell what you find so gratifying—whether it's the arty walls or the view of the bay. You simply accept the gift of its charms and Elena's individualism.

THE VIEWER is jolted by the delightful mélange of pattern, texture and tone, representing Roces' trademark. Mango yellow is used judiciously against a background of earth tones. The dividing wall is painted with hand plastering and a mural.



VISUAL PUN. A mural of children pretending to be peeping into the servants' quarters



A REFRESHING shower corner within the confines of public space. Since there is no showerhead, a stream of water cascades from it.

22nd furniture festival ongoing

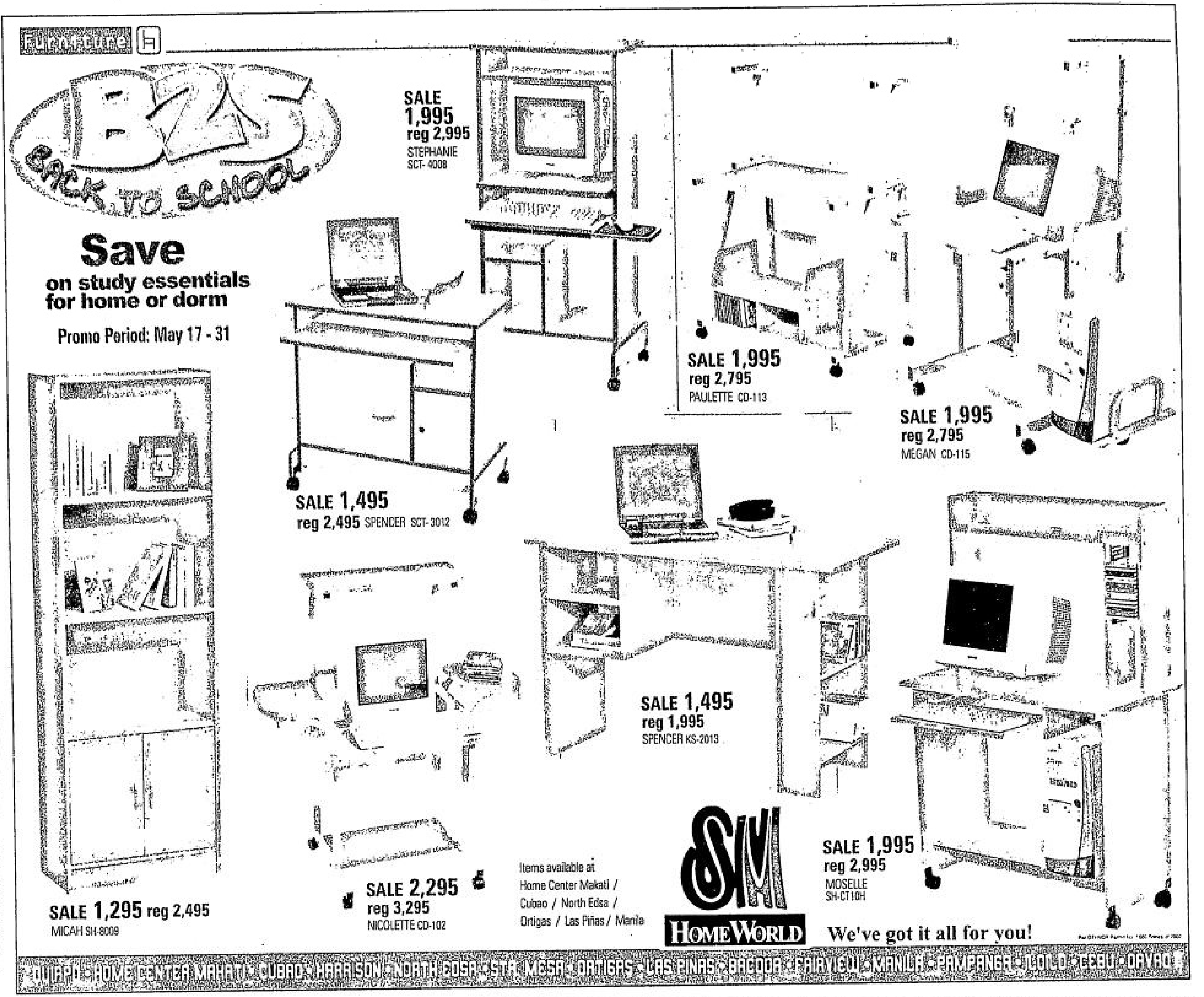
THE FINEST in world-class Philippine-made furniture and home accessories designed by the top names in the furniture industry is on exhibit at the 22nd Philippine Furniture Festival until May 19 at the SM Megamall, Festival Supermall and Robinsons Starmills, Pampanga.

Themed "Bare Necessities," this furniture extravaganza organized by the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Phils. (CFIP) is open free to the public.

Considered one of the biggest furniture trade shows in the country, this season's Philippine Furniture Festival features Legends Furniture and Accessories, which specializes on wood furniture of modern classic design.

Joining Legends are other noted homegrown furniture companies such as Jaime Gerardo Designs, Las Palmas Furniture Inc., Padua Int'l. Corp., Patina Furniture, Union Square Enterprises and Walch's Furniture.

As an added feature, the CFIP will raffle off fabulous prizes to those who have purchased at least P2,000 worth of products from the more than 60 exhibitors.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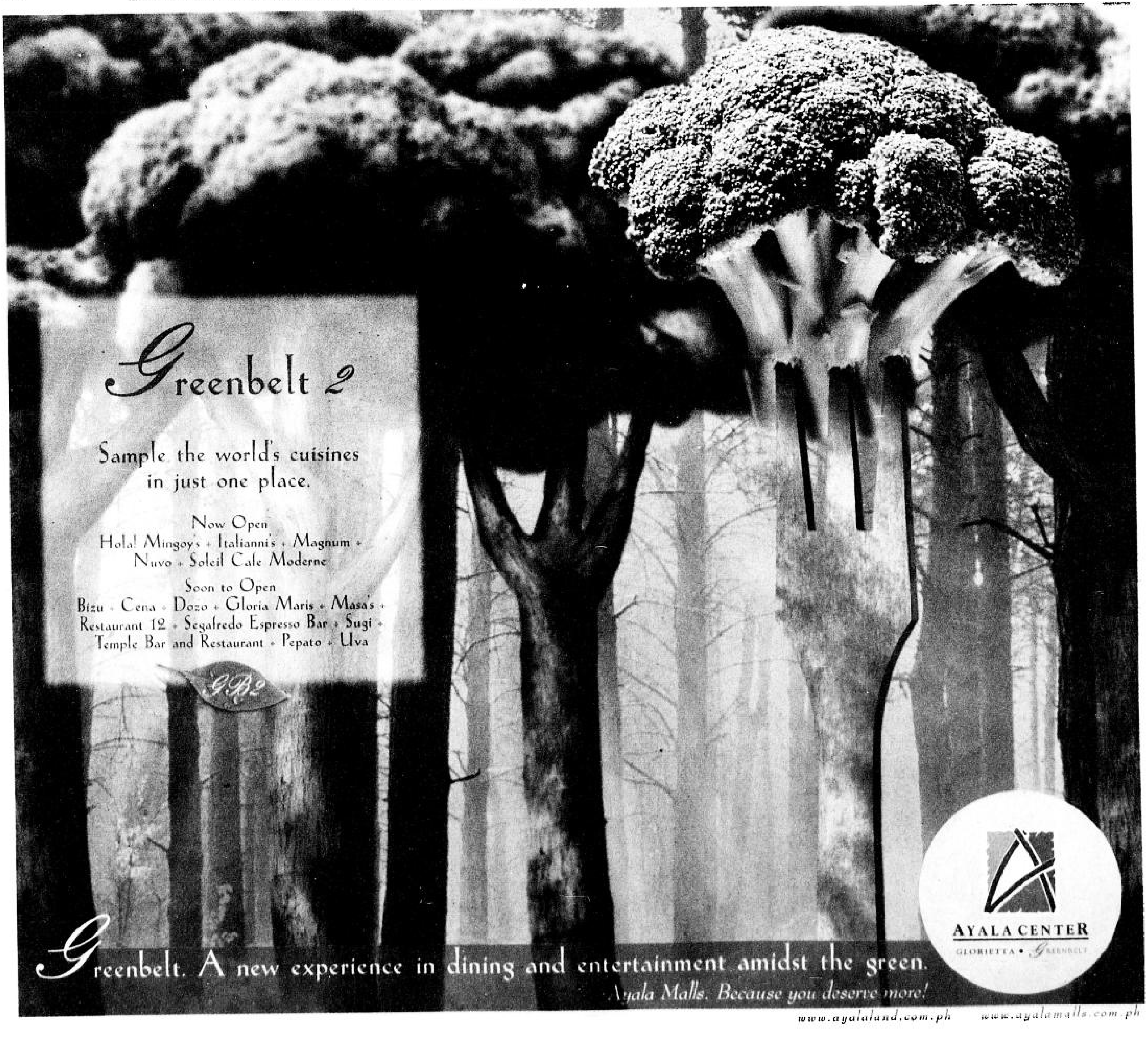
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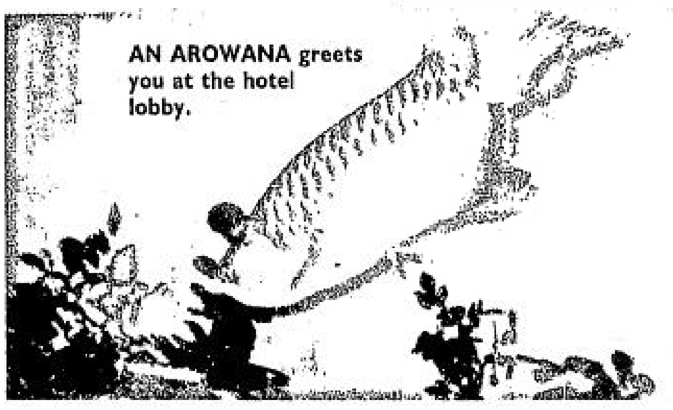
The tropical lucky fish makes the legendary beach hideaway lucky, indeed



AN AROWANA greets you at the hotel lobby.

Comely koi in comely Boracay

By Howard Borja
Contributor

THE POPULARITY of raising koi, arowana and other tropical fish is a welcome trend in this increasingly cyber world. While their natural habitats are under siege, it's good to know that their pedigree will live on, thanks to the "tender loving care" of enthusiasts, such as Henry Chusuey, president of Boracay Regency Beach Resort. The objects of Chusuey's enthusiasm are now the lucky residents of the Regency, housed in various tanks, and in the koi pond amid greenery, waterfalls and an elevated garden promenade.

Designed by Shirley Saunders, landscape artist for the Ayalas and Cojuancos, the premises make an elegant setting for breezy afternoon cocktails and special events. Several specimens can also be spotted at the Wave underground music bar which, we were told, is Boracay's first underground music bar with cyber/laser lights and sound system at par with Asia's best.

Multistoried

The multistoried Mediterranean-inspired structure of the Boracay Regency makes it the island's biggest beachfront hotel, and has raised many eyebrows among the island's visiting backpackers and "Lonely Planet" type travelers, who expect more rustic lodgings in a tropical paradise. But with the increasing number of family-type and corporate tourists discovering Boracay, the Regency, with its AAA rating, is the place to go to.

The landscaping, the waterfalls and the tropical fish collection contribute to the softening of the Regency's otherwise cosmopolitan glitz, and make the vacation experience truly complete.

Chusuey started his hobby 20 years ago with goldfish. Now he has almost all kinds of freshwater fishes.

"I have two arowana, one chili red and one red; two arapaima; catfish; several kinds of cichlids, giant gourami; and about three-plus kois," he said.

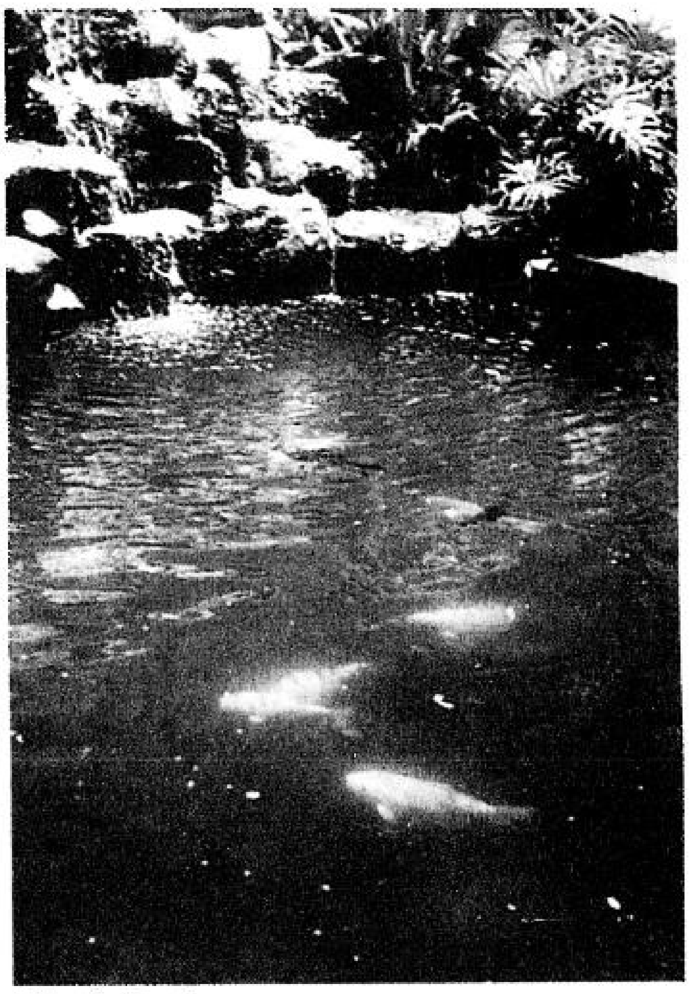
Expensive

Arowanas are expensive (P50,000 to P100,000), especially the chili red that he owns. The price depends on the color and shape; it depends on the quality. There are kois that are more expensive than arowanas—from P2,000 to several millions.

Asked why fish fanciers like him prefer to collect koi and arowana, he replied, "The arowana swims gracefully, its color is very nice and it is said to be a lucky fish. The koi, on the other hand, looks good in the pond. You have to look at it from above to appreciate its color and patterns. There are many different kinds of pattern for each one—kohaku, asagi, shusui, utsuri, bekko, sanke, showa, etc. You have to know the general looks of the particular koi, what kind of pattern will appeal to you. It is very satisfying to feed koi has a voracious appetite. You can train it to feed from your hand.

"The koi is best viewed from above, hence you need to put it in ponds. When you watch a koi, you look at its pattern at its back and not sideways. The arowana is best viewed at the side as the color could be seen through its scales at the side of the body, hence it is put in an aquarium.

"Basically, as in all kinds of fish, you need to read up and do research on it before you try raising it. Just give them good water, proper filtration, oxygen, feed them and they will in return continue to grow and improve and give you years and years of enjoyment."



KOI at feeding time

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+ 2 True-to-life Break-ups
2 Hours of Shared Tears
Because letting go is easier with someone around,
...thank goodness for Kleenex tissues.

Put a KLEENEX* box in your car and tune in to DWLL, DWTM, JOEY and WAVE-FM to find out how you can win exciting prizes!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0044 Series of 2002.

WESTERN

GREAT
SUMMER
OUTDOORS

Mechanics

For a minimum P5,000 cash or credit card purchases, you get a chance to win:

- **SUMMER VACATION TOUR PACKAGES**
- **MAJOR HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES**
- **MOUNTAIN BIKES**
- **EXCITING SUMMER ACCESSORIES**

- Free delivery on selected items up to May 19, 2002
- Mouth-watering freebies on selected buys
- Afford-a-buy appliances
- Below 0% interest-card price is lower than crash
- 0% interest on selected items thru major credit cards
- Shock-free rates thru major credit cards
- Appliance package combos
- Kayang Kaya installment plan

Get it now!

CARD POWER
to the MAX

citibank

BELOW 0% ZERO interest

JVC

600X Digital Zoom
Super VHS Camcorder

P4,498.33
6 months

FREE TRIPOD & CAMERA CASE
PLUS MULTI FUNCTION KIT
FOR EVERY PURCHASE!

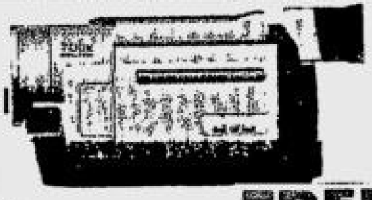
SONY

560X Digital
Video Camera

Free Hi-8 tape, bag & multi-function kit

P5,499.83
6 months

JVC

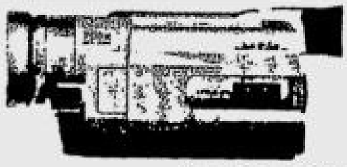


700X Digital
Zoom
High Band
Digital Video
Camcorder

FREE TRIPOD & CAMERA CASE
PLUS MULTI FUNCTION KIT
FOR EVERY PURCHASE!

P6,665
6 months

JVC

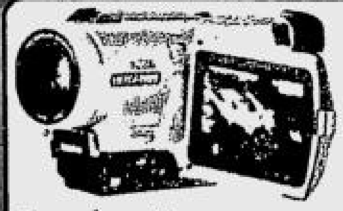


700X Digital
Zoom
High Band
Digital Video Cam

FREE TRIPOD & CAMERA CASE
PLUS MULTI FUNCTION KIT
FOR EVERY PURCHASE!

P11,665
6 months

SONY



500X Digital
Zoom Digital8
Handycam

Free bag & multi-function kit

P12,166.50
6 months

FREE!
Get this much FREE!

Get your GE Appliances now and pay only for a portion of the original price!

Hurry! These discounts are available only for a limited time!

Item	Old SRP	Discount	New SRP
Single-Door Ref			
141,584 cu. cm. (5 cu.ft.)	P9,995	P 500	P 9,495
169,990 cu. cm. (6 cu.ft.)	P10,495	P 500	P 9,995
184,059 cu. cm. (6.5 cu.ft.)	P11,495	P 500	P 10,995
198,217 cu. cm. (7 cu.ft.)	P11,995	P 600	P 11,395
Window-Type Aircon			
0.5 kw (0.75 HP)	P 12,995	P 500	P 12,495
0.7 kw (1.00 HP)	P 14,495	P 500	P 13,995
0.9 kw (1.25 HP)	P 16,995	P 1,000	P 15,995
1.3 kw (1.75 HP)	P 23,995	P 4,000	P 19,995

Item	Old SRP	Discount	New SRP
Split-Type Aircon			
0.7 kw (1.00 HP)	P 26,995	P 3,000	P 23,995
1.1 kw (1.50 HP)	P 29,495	P 2,500	P 26,995
1.5 kw (2.00 HP)	P 36,995	P 2,000	P 34,995
Asian Twin-Tub Washing Machine			
5.5 kg	P 7,795	P 500	P 7,295
6 kg	P 8,395	P 500	P 7,895
SmartWater™ Table-top Hot & Cold Water Dispenser	P 5,695	P 500	P 5,195

Extended until May 31 only. Approved by DTI-NCR.

FREE
Bundle of assorted kitchen gift items with every Single-Door or Asian No-Frost ref purchased

GE Appliances are available at all leading appliance stores nationwide.

Appliance Roll-Back Attack

GE Appliances
We bring good things to life.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0467 Series of 2002

http://www.geappliances-philippines.com

WESTERN

0% INTEREST FREE
THRU MAJOR CREDIT CARDS

3/4 HP Window-type Aircon
P2,082.50
6 months

8 cu. ft. Two-Door Refrigerator
P2,999.17
6 months
FREE RICE BOX &
30-PC. MICROWAVABLE FOOD KEEPER SET

0.8 cu. ft. Digital Microwave oven
P1,165.83
6 months

ARISTON
4 Gas Burners and One Electric Plate Electric Oven
FREE DELIVERY
in selected areas
P4,915.83
6 months

ELBA
Electric Convection Oven with Grill
P3,208.33
6 months

JVC
34" Stereo Flat CTV
FREE TV RACK
P7,499.17
12 months

SONY
3600W PMPO DVD Component
FREE DVD MOVIE
P2,749.92
12 months

JVC
600X Digital Zoom Compact VHS Camcorder
P1,999.17
12 months
FREE
TRIPOD & CAMERA CASE
PLUS
MULTI FUNCTION KIT
FOR EVERY PURCHASE

aiwa
4000W PMPO 3-DVD/VCD/CD Component
P3,331.67
6 months

APPLIANCE PACKAGE COMBOS

JVC
2000W PMPO 3-SVCD/VCD/CD Component
21" CTV
FREE VCD QUADRO, MIC & CD RACK
•Original Price: P25,480
•Now: P22,490
Save P3,490

JVC
21" Stereo CTV
FREE VCD QUADRO, MIC & CD RACK
3600W PMPO VCD Component w/ MP3
•Original Price: P28,980
•Now: P26,490
Save P2,490

SHOCK FREE RATES
Thru BPI and Equitable Card
FREE DESK FAN

SAMSUNG
9 cu. ft. No Frost Two-Door Refrigerator
P1,017.07
24 months

DAEWOO
5kg Twin Tub Washing MAchine
P418.62
24 months
FREE PRIDE DETERGENT

SANYO
5 cu.ft. Single Door Refrigerator
FREE 16-PC. DINNER SET
P517.66
24 months

Panasonic
21" Stereo CTV
P777.93
24 months
FREE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR & PILLOW

2400W PMPO 3-SVCD/VCD/CD Mini-Component
P1,196.90
24 months
FREE VCD MOVIE & KARAOKE

KAYANG KAYA INSTALLMENT
12 Months

Pioneer
2000W PMPO 3-VCD/CD Component
FREE SURROUND SPEAKERS, MIC & 10 VCD KARAOKE
P73
per day

POLYTRON
21" CTV with Built-in Active Subwooper
P39
per day

CONDURA
7cu. ft. 2-Door Ref
FREE DISH DRAINER
P63
per day

WESTERN

WESTERN
JCB
3562
JUAN DE LA CRUZ

CARD POWER to the MAX

POWER TRIO
- Western Equitable JCB credit card is accepted natiowide

POWER PERKS
- Free Annual Fee
- Get 500 reward points instantly upon approval of your application

POWER PRICE SLASH
-Special privileges such as discounts and price-cuts on selected items

POWER RATES
-Lowest interest on straight charge and installment transactions

GE is top whiteline in BPI Appliance Madness

GE Appliance came out as the top whiteline appliance brand in the recently concluded 27th BPI Card Installment Madness held last March 6 to 24 at the Glorietta, beating other white line (and even most brown line appliance brands) in the process. This is the second straight time that GE Appliances has earned the prestigious distinction.

The BPI Cards Installment Madness, arguably the country's most prestigious appliance exhibit, is considered the barometer of the appliance industry in determining what the market considers as its most reliable and in-demand brands. All major competing household appliance brands (at least a total of 17 top manufacturers that converge at the Glorietta's central Sunken Area) participate in the highly energetic and competitive exhibit held three times every year. Brands are ranked at the end of the exhibit according to total sales during the said period. During the most recent edition of the 19-day exhibit, GE posted a clear lead of over P1.2 million in total sales over its nearest competitor.

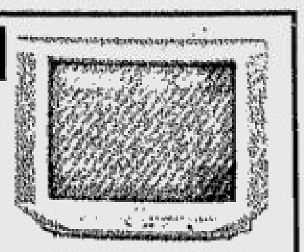
The Installment Madness' results seem to echo the other awards and distinctions that GE has earned among them America's Most Preferred Appliance Brand, and Asia's Superbrand (Platinum Award for refrigeration and Gold for washing machines), as voted by readers in Reader's Digest's annual survey.

GE Appliance's product line under its official distributor, CYA Industries, Inc., includes Asian products such as the single-door and no-frost refs, air conditioners, freezers, washing machines, microwave ovens and water dispensers. Its high-end US products such as the side-by-side and stainless refs, US laundry and the Advantium, nonetheless, continue to be products preferred by the higher-end Filipino consumers and aspired for by the mid-market.

GE Appliances' new Philippine distributor is CYA Industries. For more information on GE Appliances, call 631-8282 or 887-0075.

AFFORD-A-BUYS

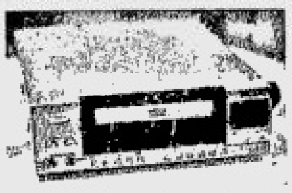
TCL



25" Stereo CTV

P13,095

Garant



VCD Player w/ Karaoke Function, Virtual Surround & Perpetual calendar

P2,790

IMAX

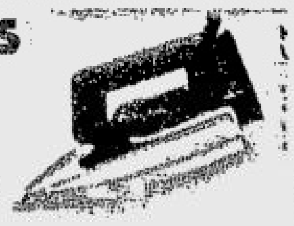
18" Floor Fan

FREE BALL CAP

P1,195

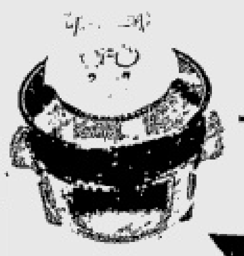
PHILIPS

Ultra Light Dry Iron



P639

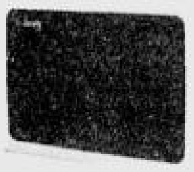
AMERICAN HOME®



Turbo Broiler

P2,790

Galanz



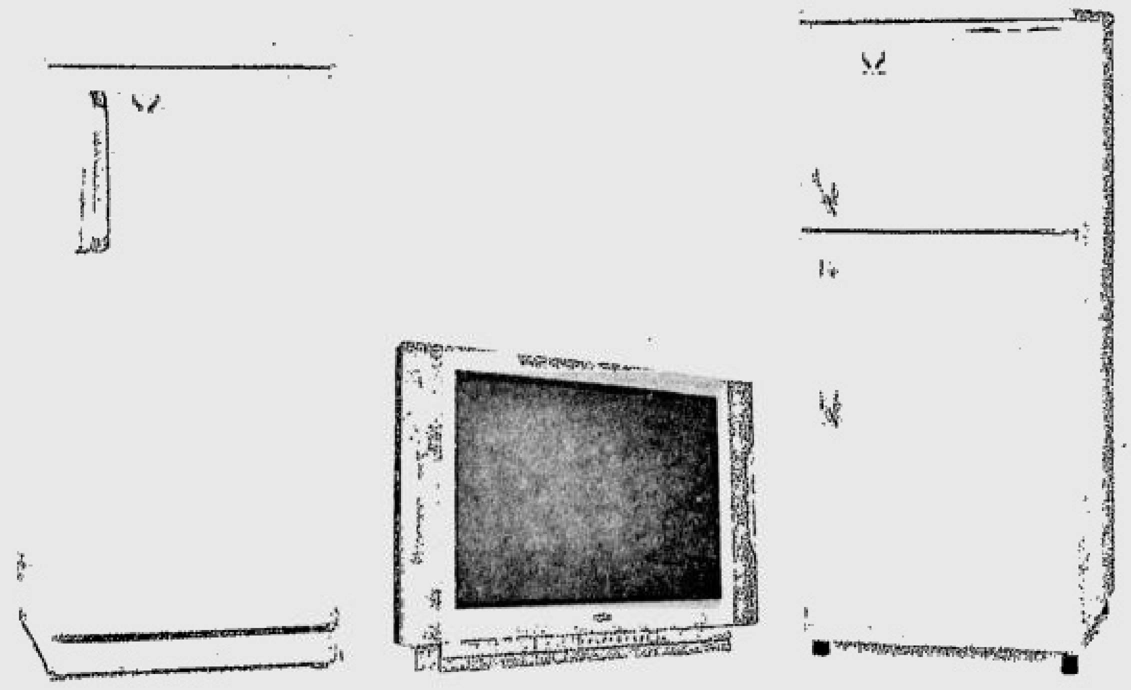
Microwave Oven

P2,595

SANYO

Dinnerware Gift

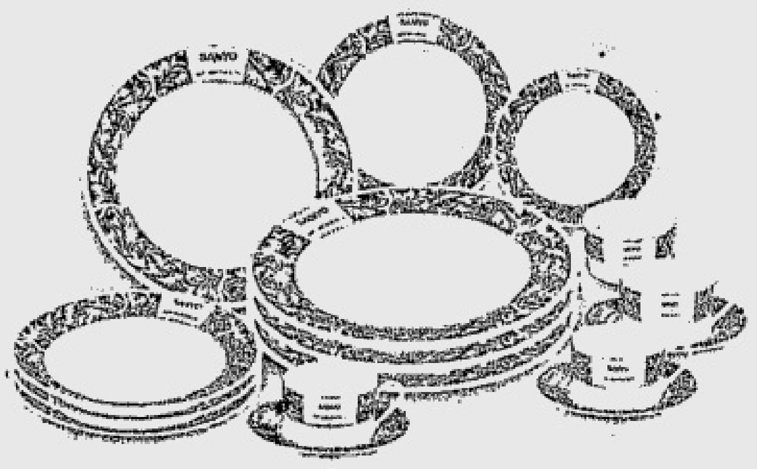
Purchase
any model of SANYO
Refrigerator, Freezer or Television



SANYO

Take home
a 16-piece elegant
Porcelain dinner set for

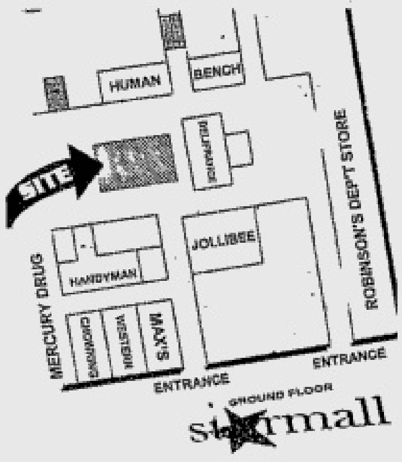
FREE!



Starting April 1 up to May 31, 2002 the SANYO Dinnerware Gift is on.
Available at all leading appliance stores nationwide.

Visit us at: www.sanyophilippines.com

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0416, Series of 2002


HUMAN
BENCH
SITE
JOLLIBEE
HANDYMAN
MERCURY DRUG
WESTERN
MAX'S
ROBINSON'S DEP'T STORE
ENTRANCE
ENTRANCE
GROUND FLOOR
starmall

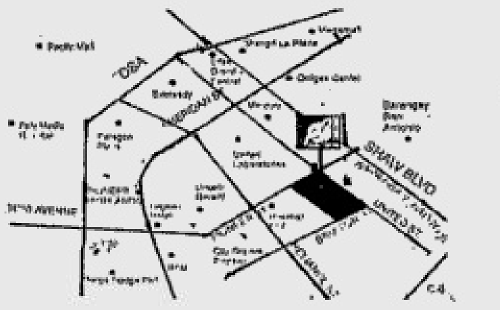
WESTERN BRANCH NETWORK VISIT OUR APPLIANCE EXHIBITS @

STARMALL

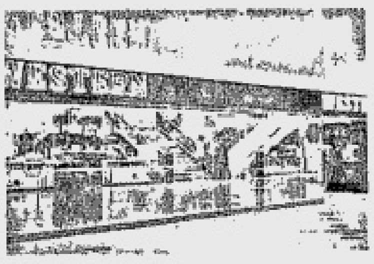
Ground Floor, Atrium Star Mall, Edsa
cor. Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City

PIONEER CENTER

Pioneer cor. United,
Barangay Kapitolyo, Pasig City

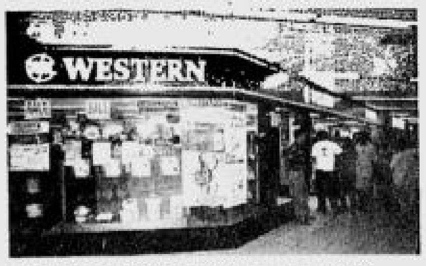

EDSA
SHAW BLVD
PIONEER
UNITED ST.
C-5

KALOOKAN (Kalookan City)

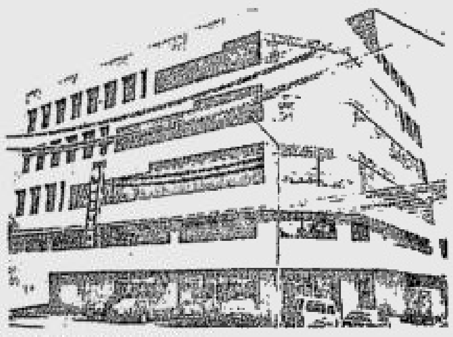


COMMONWEALTH (Quezon City)

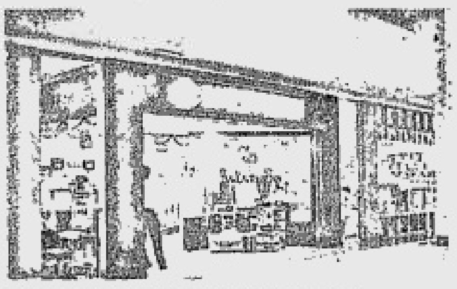
FARMERS PLAZA (Cubao)



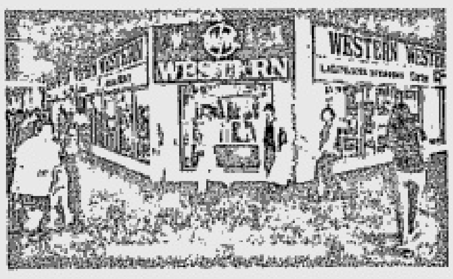
GRAND CENTRAL (Kalookan City)



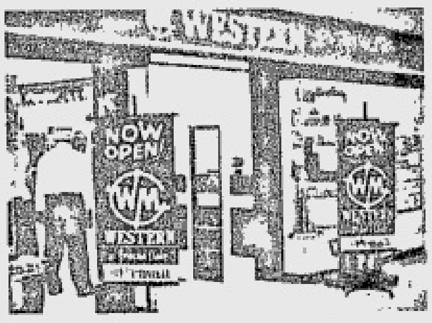
P. TUAZON (Cubao)



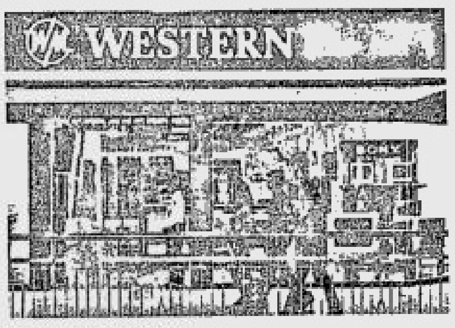
FESTIVAL MALL (Muntinlupa City)



FARMERS ANNEX (Cubao)

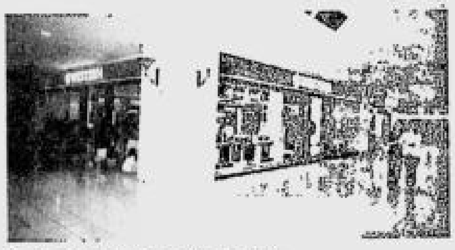


STAR MALL (Mandaluyong City)

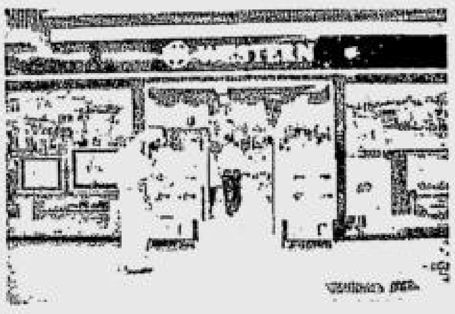


STA. ROSA (Laguna)

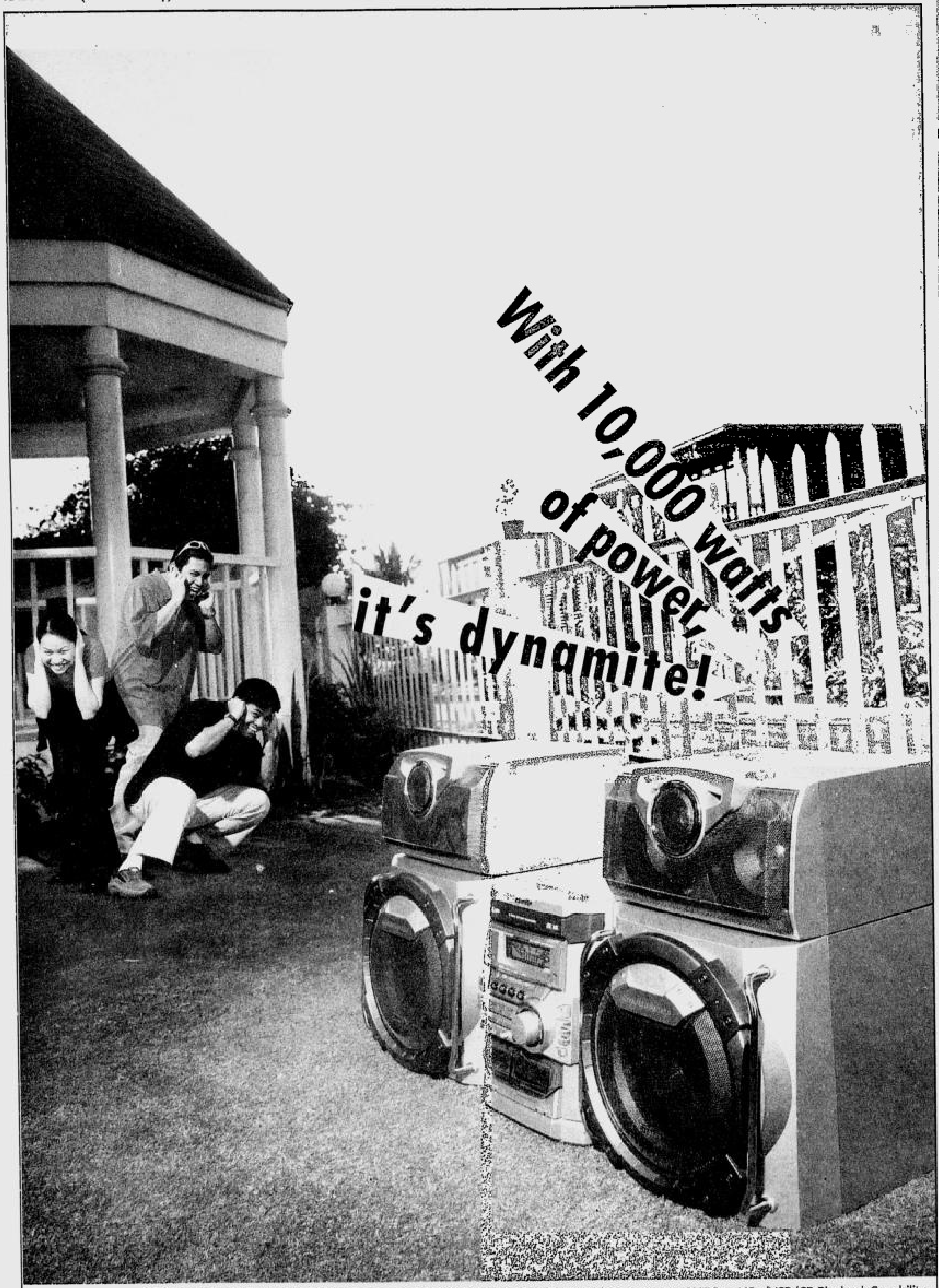
RECTO (Manila)



STA. LUCIA (Cainta, Rizal)

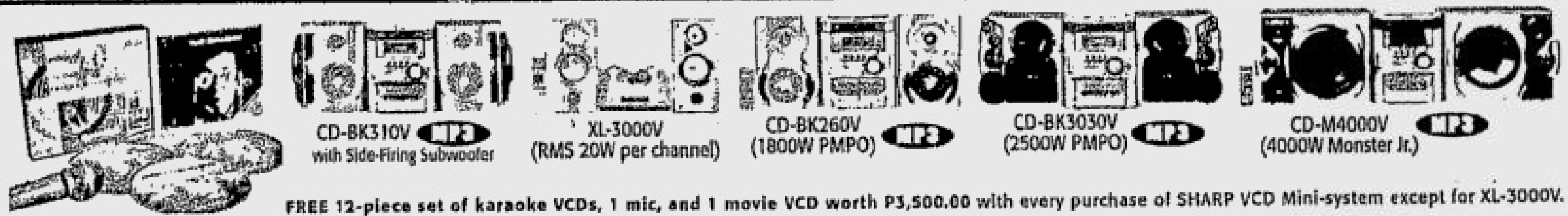


MEGAMALL (Mandaluyong City)


With 10,000 watts of power, it's dynamite!

NEW SHARP MEGA MONSTER CD-M10000V VCD MINI SYSTEM Ultra High 10.000 watts PMPO • MP3/VCD/CD Playback Capability • 3VCD/CD Drawer Changer • Karaoke Function • Multi-Color Fluorescent Display • Energy Saving 0.8W consumption in stand-by mode

SHARP
Always Ahead. Always Sharp.



CD-BK310V MP3
with Side-Firing Subwoofer

XL-3000V
(RMS 20W per channel)

CD-BK260V
(1800W PMPO) MP3

CD-BK3030V
(2500W PMPO) MP3

CD-M4000V
(4000W Monster Jr.) MP3

FREE 12-piece set of karaoke VCDs, 1 mic, and 1 movie VCD worth P3,500.00 with every purchase of SHARP VCD Mini-system except for XL-3000V.

See other Sharp VCD Mini-systems in all Sharp dealers nationwide. Visit or call the Sharp Imagination and Creativity Technology Hall at Level 5, SM Megamall Bldg. B (tel. # 634-8147 to 48) or visit our website: http://www.sharp.ph

WESTERN

MORATO

#34 Morato St., SFDM, Quezon City
Tel. No. : 374-3250
Contact Person: TESS LASCANO

PASAY ROAD

Tel. no.: 817-6660